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Korean Affairs Report



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INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

KIM CHONG-IL'S MILITARY BASE, FORCE READINESS REVIEWED

Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN in Korean 27 Dec 85 pp 1H-9H

[Text] Some notable trends of 1985 detected in North Korean military movement include a tighter grip over the military by Kim Chong-il (KCI), an intensified concentration of combat troops in DMZ area even during South-North dialogues, and a closer military alliance with Soviet Union.

North Korea's military maneuvers prove that although multi-dimensional South-North dialogue is being held at present, they still cling to their basic strategy of reunifying the nation through communization by force.

First, an analysis of KCI's rise to power in the military shows that following 6th Party Congress in October 1980 during which he publicly emerged as Kim Il-song(KIS)'s successor, he took pains to muster support from the military, a uniquely powerful organization in North Korean sociopolitical structure. In fact, through KIS's control, KCI's foothold in the military was substantially strengthened by placing in key positions those loyal to KCI: O Chin-u, the godfather of military circles, as minister of People's Armed Forces (PAF); O Kuk-yol, chief of the general staff; Kim Tu-nam, director of military affairs department; Yun Ch'i-ho, deputy chief of the general political bureau under the Ministry of PAF--and further by reshuffling those in positions of regimental commander and above. Moreover, since 1983, North Korea has been monitoring soldiers' ideological trend by dispatching three members of Three Revolutions Teams, KCI's puppet organization, to each company and larger units, a systematic and persistent scheme to strengthen KCI's power base.

Notably, in April 1985, which marked his 73d birthday, KIS, on the occasion of the so-called "40th anniversary of fatherland liberation and the party foundation," promoted O Chin-u, minister of Armed Forces, to vice marshal and O Kuk-yol and Kim Tu-nam to generalship, under the pretext of great service to the KPA. This suggested the enhanced influence of KCI supporters within the military and the culmination of KCI's power seizure.

On 16 November 1985, North Korea held a meeting commemorating the 40th anniversary of Kim Il-song Political University and Kanggon General Officer's Academy, educational institutions for military cadres. With the minister of the Armed Forces, Vice Marshal O Chin-u, and the chief of the general

staff, general O Kuk-yol, present, it was proclaimed that the command of the North Korean military was being transferred from KIS to KCI. At the meeting Kim Il-song Political University president, O Ki-su (lieutenant general) stressed, "Comrade KCI has strengthened and developed this university as a general political university and has correctly guided ideological and educational principles"; and, Kanggon General Officer's Academy rector Chon Mun-uk (colonel general) proclaimed, "Comrade KCI has taught that it is an important task for this institution to generate able officers by inheriting and advancing KIS' ideology on military education."

It is true that KCI's climb to military power was thwarted for some time. However, analysis from aforesaid points indicate that KCI's cultivation of key officers is progressing smoothly as a result of many recent land readjustment programs. Further, KCI's power in the military establishment has reached new heights at which his virtual command of the military is publicly displayed.

Next to be noted is North Korea's reinforcement of military strength.

As of late 1984, the number of North Korean soldiers stood at 838,000, an increase of 56,000 from 1983—750,000 army, 33,000 navy, and 53,000 air force. North Korea ranks second in the world in relative number of soldiers with 42 per 1,000, a figure topped only by Israel with 45 per 1,000. North Korea ranks 6th in the world in the absolute number of soldiers; and, in quantitative terms, it still holds an edge [over South Korea]. Particularly noteworthy are North Korea's additional placement of four mechanized corps which are composed of 9-12 divisions and an artillery brigade in the area within 80 km north of the DMZ and the large increase in concentration of force in the front line from 45 percent in 1981 to 65 percent in 1985, making various war preparations. Through these activities, North Korea is persistently exhibiting their tendency to provoke the South in order to disrupt 1986 Asiad and 1988 Olympic games and further, their ambition to raid the South.

This year, North Korea has positioned 9 newly formed armored divisions near the DMZ such as in the Kaesong area. These armored divisions are not responsible for defense of an area but are specialized offensive units. It should be noted that whereas the 7th, 8th and the special corps, ostensibly offensive units, were previously deployed in the rear area such as Chongju, South Pyongan Province, and Tokch'on, these armored divisions are now located near the DMZ, in preparation for a southward invasion. Furthermore, they have constructed large-scale underground facilities. For example, to upgrade mobility and flexibility, they have built 115 underground camps which accommodate a force of 4-5 divisions and their equipment adjacent to the DMZ and, in Kosong County, at the Namae-ri naval base, vessel-concealment, facilities were fashioned. This forward placement of North Korean soldiers, along with existing 100,000 special forces designed for a surprise attack, pose a great threat to the security of the ROK. Moreover, with the introduction of modern aircraft and naval fleet and with improved capability in domestic weapon production, North Korea is concentrating its efforts to gain military superiority over the South through qualitative improvement, replacing old equipment with new, etc.

Related trends show that through domestic production of T-62 tanks and armored vehicles, 10 infantry divisions were transformed into mechanized divisions, rendering 12 (32 percent) of total 27 divisions armored or mechanized. This improved their mobility from 4 km per hour to 30 km. In addition, they have accelerated their project of converting shoulder-fired guns to self-propelled, rendering 1,800 of 4,800 self-propelled. This not only profoundly strengthened their artillery power, but by deploying 80 percent of armored artillerymen to key areas for the southward invasion and to the front line, North Korea has posited the option of military provocation within the realm of ever-present possibility. Concurrently, with a guided missile fleet acquired from China, submarines, and destroyers, a total of 19 various battleships are deployed for actual battle, and some 26 modern Soviet-made MiG-23's and 52 AN-2's and 47 Polish-made MI-2 helicopters have been newly ushered in. And recently, they have markedly enhanced their mobile strike capability by expediting their initial stage in building a large-scale aircraft manufacturing facility in North Pyongan Province to assemble and manufacture MiGs and helicopters. It is an unquestionable fact that North Korea aims to mold a favorable condition for a southward invasion by creating extreme internal unrest in South Korea through its special force's simultaneous infiltration of front line and the rear area and its indiscriminate attack on our organizations, facilities, and personnel.

Finally, we cannot overlook the Soviet-North Korea military alliance. Their military alliance, which was stepped up after KIS's May 1984 Soviet visit, culminated when, in November of the same year, Soviet Foreign Minister Kapitsa visited North Korea and apparently agreed that the Soviet Union would supply North Korea with modern weaponry and make reconnaissance flights over North Korean airspace.

Accordingly, the Soviet Union provided North Korea with 6 MiG-23's in May 85, 10 in July, and 10 in August for a total of 26; moreover, Soviet reconnaissance aircraft (TU16-Badger) began making regular overflights across the DMZ in December 1984. Furthermore, amidst bustling interchanges between two countries that included Soviet visit by key North Korean military figures, O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, and O Kuk-ryol, chief of the general staff, in North Korea's so-called "40th anniversary of fatherland liberation" celebration in August 1985, high-level Soviet military personnel were present (2 marshals, 2 generals), led by Vasily Ivanovich Petrov, 1st deputy minister of defense. The Soviet delegation met with Kim Il-song, O Chin-u, and O Kuk-ryol and has ostensibly agreed to strengthen their common strategic position, by such actions as mutual air visits and Soviet Pacific fleet's visit to Wonsan port. The Soviet's weapon supply to North Korea includes MiG-23's, T-72 tanks, and SA-3 ground-to-air missiles, of which the most notable is the large quantity of MiG-23's. The Soviet provision of MiG-23's signifies an important change in their policy toward North Korea and in their military strategy in the Far East. It was believed that the Soviet Union had postponed the delivery of MiG-23's out of concern for North Korea's war-mongering, its apparent inability to dissuade North Korea from taking extreme measures (such as the Rangoon incident, 18 August 1983), and the Far Eastern

military balance vis-a-vis the United States. However, in promoting the plan Gorbachev heralded during the "Asian Security Conference," a meeting to counter the United States' Far Eastern strategy, the Soviet Union increased its military support to and forged a stronger alliance with North Korea since it bears an essential geopolitical strategic importance. It can be further deduced that the Soviet Union, by pressing for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and providing North Korea with MiG-23's, intends to utilize North Korea in improving its strategic position in the Far East. Fortified with MiG-23's, North Korea can not only counter South Korea's F-16's, but also it has greatly strengthened its surprise attack capability. At any rate, the closer Soviet-North Korea military alliance that began with the delivery of MiG-23's to North Korea is arousing heightened international concern in that it has intensified the South-North arms race and increased the possibility that the Korean peninsula may serve as a proxy-battleground for the superpowers.

As analyzed above, KCI's assumption of military power and the closer Soviet-North Korea military alliance molded by the Soviet's strategic interests in the Korean peninsula bespeak that even during South-North talks, the wonted craving for the communization of the South by force remains unabated. Vigilance must be observed, for the southward invasion may be attempted with major international events such as 1986 Asian Games and 1988 Seoul Olympiad and the transfer of power forthcoming in South Korea.

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CSO: 4107/101

INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

SPECIAL FORCE FORMED IN DPRK WITH U.S. HELICOPTERS

SK241138 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 24 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] YONHAP report from Tokyo--Quoting an international military source in Tokyo, the Japanese daily SANKEI said, on 23 March, that North Korea recently activated a special task force for use for a surprise attack by gathering, at a certain place, 85 U.S.-made helicopters it had imported through a third country.

The daily said that, because these U.S.-made helicopters are coated and painted in the same manner as that used for the helicopters belonging to ROK Army units, the ROK Army will be greatly confused in distinguishing between these helicopters and friendly ones in case of a contingency. The daily said further that North Korea has activated a special task force in Pakchon, north of Pyongyang and that 85 U.S.-made Hughes 500-MD/TOW helicopters, which were imported by North Korea, have already been committed to training for a real war after having undergone assembly and maintenance work.

The international military source quoted by the Japanese daily SANKEI said that Pakchon is known to be the site where a unit charged with special missions, such as guerrilla warfare, has been deployed, and that North Korea's activation of a special task force for use for a surprise attack appears to be intended for the conducting of joint operations.

The Hughes 500-MD helicopter, manufactured by the American Hughes Company, weighs 600 kilograms, its total length is 9.3 meters, and its height is 2.53 meters. It is a light attack helicopter. It has been exported to 20 countries, including South Korea, Italy, and Japan.

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CSO: 4107/113

INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CALL FOR POLITICAL, SOCIAL STABILITY--President Chon Tu-hwan yesterday called for the additional strengthening of national power to realize peaceful unification of the peninsula during "our generation." He emphasized the necessity to achieve political and social stability and national harmony with a view to establishing favorable atmosphere for the national unification. The president made the remarks after receiving a briefing from Kim Chang-sok, secretary general of the Advisory [Council for] Peaceful Unification Policy, on the council's major policy programs for this year at Chongwadae. The presidential advisory group reported it will step up the spiritual combat capability against the political and ideological warfare that are expected to be waged by North Korea this year. In his report to the president, Kim said the council will activate its structural functions of advising and recommending formulas for peaceful unification policy in order to continue the inter-Korea talks. The group will attempt to create a favorable environment under which North Korea will be unable to turn away from the inter-Korean dialogue, which it unilaterally postponed, Kim said. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

STATEMENT ON KOREAN COUPLE'S DEFACTION--Seoul, 18 Mar (YONHAP)--The South Korean Government Tuesday issued a statement saying that "it is fortunate that Mr Sin Sang-ok, a Korean film director, and his actress wife Mrs Choe Un-hui have escaped from North Korea to regain freedom." In the statement read by Kim Hung-su, Foreign Ministry spokesman, the government said that the U.S. Government would "deal with this matter reasonably in accordance with international practice." The Korean Government will cooperate closely with the U.S. Government in this matter, the statement said. The Sin-choe couple, who were abducted by North Koreans in 1978, reportedly escaped and sought refuge at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, Austria last Thursday. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 1918 GMT 17 Mar 86] /9604

CSO: 4100/105

OLYMPIC GAMES

NKDP EXPRESSES 'REGRET' OVER MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

SK220001 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The main opposition New Korea Democratic Party expressed regret yesterday over government ministers' ensuing statements on the current defense and social situation.

Party spokesman Rep Hong Sa-tok said, "It is surprising that the government publicly emphasizes the possibility of the recurrence of war when full fledged preparations are under way for the Asian and Olympic games."

He was referring to the recent statements by defense and culture-information ministers, warning against the danger of North Korean direct and indirect invasions of the south.

"Our party cannot but fear that such statements may have a bad effect on the national tasks of the Asian and Olympic games, though there is no evidence to rebuke the defense minister's comparison of the military power between South and North Korea as the government holds the monopoly of information," Hong said.

He claimed that constitutional revision is a movement that is to maximize the national capabilities and lead the people to true unity. He urged the government to carry out the revision of the basic law soon and not to allow the North Korean misjudgement that there is an inner split in the South.

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CSO: 4100/107

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

CHON: NEXT 3 YEARS 'MOST DANGEROUS, CRUCIAL' PERIOD

SK150932 Seoul YONHAP in English 0610 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Cheju, Korea, 15 Mar (YONHAP)--President Chon Tu-hwan Saturday warned that the next 3 years will be "the most dangerous and crucial" period for Korea in the fields of politics, economics and military affairs.

After Gov Chang Pyong-ku presented a briefing on 1986 policy measures on this southern island-province, Chon called on Koreans to be aware of the importance of the cited period and of the integration of the "national capability" in turning the crisis into a turning point for launching another economic take-off.

Pointing out that Cheju Province is the only Korean province that foreigners can enter without entry visas, Chon instructed government officials to take special precautions against possible flaws in national security and defense.

He urged the Cheju officials to maintain an attitude of taking joint responsibility in regional affairs, including the prevention of collective movements and disturbances in the legal order.

In a luncheon he hosted for more than 120 representatives of the province, including exemplary citizens, Chon said it is his "religion" that the country should not miss the rare opportunities for national development, such as the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Quoting Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher, the president said, "There would only be chaos and destruction if the nation tried to fulfill at one time all the demands of the people, which vary from person to person."

"If the chaos comes, it is the people who will suffer the ultimate damage," Chon said.

During the briefing session, Gov Chang said that Cheju Province will invest 175.8 billion won (U.S.\$198.6 million: one U.S. dollar is worth about 885 won) this year in an international tourist spot.

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CSO: 4100/104

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY BANS UNAUTHORIZED STUMPING RALLIES

SK150041 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Seoul National University yesterday called on its students to refrain from holding unauthorized stumping rallies designed to elect the student council leader.

Saying that such rallies have shattered the academic atmosphere, the state-run university said the "undesirable" remarks and violent acts by students during recent rallies are increasingly becoming politically tainted.

In a statement, the university expressed worry that such remarks and deeds may result in the abandonment of the right to organize the council.

The statement was adopted in a meeting attended by deans of SNU colleges and graduate schools, director of the university library and some key administrative officials.

The statement was apparently referring to the two rounds of rallies the students attempted to stage early this week for the election of the student council leader. The rallies, unsanctioned by the school authorities, were dispersed in clashes between students and riot policemen.

"The main function of a university is to pursue academic and research activities. Therefore, on-campus political activities should never be allowed under any circumstances," it said, apparently in reference to some political remarks, including those on the constitutional revision, recently made by the students.

The university urged the students to actively cooperate in the faculty efforts to restore academic milieu.

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CSO: 4100/104

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

REPORTAGE ON ANTI GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

Student Slogans Endanger Security

SK230059 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Radical Student Slogans"]

[Text] Despite scattered and isolated campus demonstrations, the majority of college students are confining themselves to academic pursuits. This is, of course, good for campuses, whose primary, irreplaceable goal is to promote and facilitate study.

But we cannot help being concerned about the trend among some student activists to become growingly radical. The increasing isolation of the radical students, whose numbers are decreasing, is causing their slogans to become ever more extremist.

Some of the slogans have gone so far as to be no longer tolerated as mere expressions of idealistic pursuits. Some of them, if left unchecked, could work against the very survival of our country.

Some of the slogans sound similar to those being trumpeted by Communist North Korea which calls for withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and, for that matter, discontinuation of Team Spirit, the joint military exercise which has been conducted annually by South Korean and U.S. troops for defensive purposes. The radical students should give a second thought to their rash slogans, unless they intentionally wish to support Pyongyang's aggressive goals. Before uttering such reckless slogans, they should first understand why the American troops are here and why Team Spirit has had to be conducted.

Needless to say, the U.S. soldiers came here to help repel the North Korean invaders. Since the aggressive intentions of Pyongyang have remained the same as before, the Seoul-Washington joint military drill is necessary as a deterrence. It must be recalled that the Pyongyang Communists launched the southward invasion in 1950 immediately following the pullout of American troops from South Korea. They staged a peace offensive to smokescreen their impending aggression.

Now Pyongyang is stepping up psychological warfare against the South, after completing war preparations. We must guard against its tactics. Appearing gullible to the Pyongyang Communists would only tempt them to resort to military venturism. Hence, we cannot but be concerned about reckless acts by student extremists which would lead Pyongyang to make a miscalculation of the situation here. None of us, whoever we may be, must fall a victim to Pyongyang's psychological warfare aimed at creating internal division, a factor which, in Pyongyang's eyes, is decisively favorable to its strategy.

One must note North Korea's growing military relationship with the Soviet Union which has made a dramatic military buildup in the Far East, with a fourth of its nuclear arsenal assigned to that region. Herein lies the imperative for Seoul and Washington to maintain security cooperation. This and other security efforts on our part are needed to ensure our survival. We must refrain from anything that could jeopardize that survival.

Students Stage On-Campus Rallies

SK250112 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] About 1,000 students of three Seoul universities staged on-campus rallies yesterday, shouting slogans, including those against field training for college students.

About 500 sophomores of Yonsei University held a rally in front of the university library opposing the week-long training. They were part of 2,777 male sophomores who were to leave the campus aboard buses for the training site.

At Sogang University, some 300 students held demonstrations after finishing a stumping rally to elect the student council president. About 100 Ewha Woman's University students also held a similar rally for about 40 minutes.

Clergymen Urge National Reconciliation

SK270309 Seoul YONHAP in English 0258 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 27 Mar (YONHAP)--Some 1,000 clergymen affiliated with five major Korean Christian clergy organizations Thursday called in a joint statement for national reconciliation and stability in order to promote "the great task of national development."

In a statement, the clergymen said that extreme disputes that "squander national strength" could result in "a great blunder" in Korean history.

For the sake of social stability, they urged Koreans to put an end to their disputes and to work toward reconciliation and the settling of differences.

The statement was adopted after the clergymen held a prayer meeting on behalf of the nation in a hotel here.

The clergymen also appealed to political parties and social organizations to perform their duties on the basis of social stability and harmony and called on schools to exert themselves in the pursuit of study, while doing away with practices that waste national strength.

Police Break Up Campus Protest

HK271144 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 27 Mar (AFP)--Students pelted stones at about 500 riot police who stormed onto the campus of Sungkyungwan University Thursday to break up an anti-government demonstration with tear gas, witnesses said.

They said some 1,000 students had taken part in the demonstration at the university campus here, calling for the "ouster of the dictatorial regime" and abolition of the "fascist constitution."

Similar disturbances occurred Wednesday on the campuses of Seoul National University and Kunguk University.

Police arrested 37 students Wednesday after about 200 people demonstrated outside Seoul's Kuro industrial zone to denounce the government's "repressive" labour policies.

Opposition leaders have said that more than 1,000 students are now under arrest for anti-government activities.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister No Sin-yong said during a session of parliament which convened 4 days ago to tackle the constitutional issue that some of the slogans the demonstrating students put forward were "inadmissible" as they resembled North Korea's call for a revolution in the south.

Mr No repeated President Chon Tu-hwan's recent proposal that the present constitution be changed in 1989, after the conclusion of the Seoul Olympics.

The opposition is pressing for a constitutional amendment to pave the way for a presidential election through popular vote before Mr Chon's term of office ends in 2 years time.

Police To Disband Command Post

SK270059 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] A command post of police on the Seoul National University campus is to be disbanded after having been established for only about one week, it was learned yesterday.

The police facility was set up on the third floor of the university headquarters building to effectively cope with violent student activism.

However, police sources said they decided to disband it since it is not welcomed both by students and faculty members.

The facility, which is originally for the prevention of campus disturbances, is to be used occasionally by police only when there arises a need in connection with campus unrest.

Professors Disperse Violent Students

SK280102 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] A group of professors disbanded students staging violent rally against riot police in Seoul yesterday. About 200 professors and administrative officials of Konkuk University took stones away from about 70 students engaged in a violent rally in front of the school's main gate around 3:50 pm. The students stopped the rally and returned home. It was quite unusual for professors to actively intervene in student rallies and stop them.

The incident occurred after the university protested the police move into the campus to subdue student rallies in the last 2 days.

University Vice President Yi Chong-kun visited the Tongbu Police Station chief Wednesday, reportedly to protest the "excessive" police action taken against student ralliers.

University President Kwon Yong-chan, meanwhile, invited the police chief to his office yesterday, and asked him not to let riot policemen enter the campus unless requested. He also promised the police chief that professors will actively discourage student ralliers.

Antigovernment demonstrations were staged at three more universities in Seoul yesterday. The three are Sogang, Sungkyunkwan and Kyunghee universities.

Students involved in the rallies numbered about 300 at Sogang, and 100 each at the other two schools.

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CSO: 4100/106

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

KIM YONG-SAM PROPOSES MEETING WITH CHON, KIM TAE-CHUNG

SK250102 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by Kim Song-pok]

[Text] Pusan--Opposition leader Kim Yong-sam Sunday proposed a "tripartite meeting," among President Chon Tu-hwan, Kim Tae-chung and himself, to overcome political crisis and seek the "democratization" of the nation.

In a rally to establish a local office for the constitutional amendment movement in Pusan, the permanent advisor for the opposition New Korea Democratic Party suggested, "If President Chon regards the current situation as a crisis, I urge him to comply with my proposal."

After the rally, NDP members, joined by tens of thousands of Pusan citizens staged a peaceful demonstration along a downtown street. There were no clashes with police.

Kim, a native of nearby Koje, said in his speech at the rally that he would exert his utmost to achieve democracy, through consultations with those from all walks of life, including President Chon.

He then reiterated his earlier warning that a "revolution" would take place if President Chon would not push ahead with measures for democratization.

The rally at the Taehan Cinema in Pusan was attended by about 3,000 NDP members and dissidents. Kim Tae-chung who planned to attend it was checked by police at the Seoul Railway Station.

Kim Yong-sam stressed that the military has to keep its neutral stance in politics under any circumstances. "The military men should devote themselves to the national defense rather than intervene in politics so that the people will respect them," he noted.

NDP President Yi Min-u said that the Pusan branch will be a bastion from which his party will spread the "passion of democratization" across the nation. "The wave of democratization has touched here now and it should not be retreated," he declared.

Kim Tae-chung asserted in a taped speech that President Chon should let the people breathe by putting an end to the current "suffocating political situation."

He accented that the military should assume an absolutely neutral attitude toward politics, warning that its intervention in politics will result in the ruin of both the military and the nation.

On hand were some 70 NDP Assemblymen and many dissident figures, including Ye Chun-ho.

The speakers' addresses were relayed to outside of the movie house through nine loudspeakers for tens of thousands citizens, who gathered there.

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S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

REPORTAGE ON KURO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS SIT-IN

Workers Continue Sit-In

SK250107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Some 40 workers from industrial firms in Kuro and Inchon have continued a sit-in protest at the Chon Tae-il Memorial Hall in Seoul for 3 consecutive days, demanding wage increases and working condition improvements. The protest began on 22 March when they gathered at the memorial hall to pay tribute to Pak Yong-chin, 26, a worker who burned himself to death on 18 March.

About 50 other workers attempted to enter the hall to join their friends waging the sit-in inside, but failed because of the obstruction by combat police forces.

The funeral service for Pak Yong-chin at the hall Sunday was not held because of strong police measures. Seven of the workers are under police custody for questioning.

Meanwhile, the Nambu Police Station arrested 11 people in connection with the joint demonstrations by workers and students at Kuro Industrial Complex on 19 March.

Seven others were sent to summary court and 12 others were served with a warning for their involvement in the protest rally staged to demand wage hikes and better working conditions.

60 Workers Continue Protest

SK260030 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Some 60 workers continued to stage a sit-in protest at the Chon Tae-il Memorial Hall in Seoul for the 4th consecutive day yesterday.

The sit-in began 22 March when the workers from the industrial firms in Kuro and Inchon areas gathered at the hall to take part in a memorial service for Pak Yong-chin who recently burned himself to death.

Four Workers Arrested

SK230122 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Police yesterday put under formal arrest four of the six employees of the Sinheung Precision Co who staged a sit-in protest in a company building on Monday, calling for more pay and better working conditions.

During the protest, Pak Yong-chin, 27, an employee of the firm located in the Kuro Industrial Company, burned himself to death in protest against what he claimed to be the government's repression of the labor movement.

The four arrested include Cho Chang-hwan, 30, a graduate of the department of education in botanics of Seoul National University.

Police also booked the remaining two workers on the same charges.

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S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

KIM CHONG-PIL VIEWS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC ADDRESS

Exercises 'Prudence' in Speech

SK270054 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Kim Chong-pil, former chairman of the erstwhile ruling Democratic Republican Party, yesterday exercises much prudence in making a public speech not to give the impression that he declared the resumption of political activities. He delivered his first public address to a welcoming ceremony at the Hotel Shilla since he returned home from the United States a month ago.

The ceremony hosted by the Fraternity Club for National Revitalization, a group of former DRP members, was attended by about 1,500 of his followers.

In the 10-minute impromptu address, Kim said, "Let's renew our will to resume the task of the modernization of the nation which started under the assassinated President Pak Chong-hui since the early 1960s."

"I hope that you will display the consistent intention to revitalize the nation with firm determination and courage," he told the participants.

He went on, "The modernization of the nation is the way to the national revitalization." He added that the modernization means the "democratization" of the nation in politics, the accomplishment of economic self-reliance and the development of traditional culture.

Mixed Response to Remarks Noted

SK280128 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 86 p 4

[From the "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] Senior members of the ruling DJP chose to remain silent yesterday with regard to the virtual resumption of political activities by the former leader of the now-defunct Democratic Republican Party.

The DJP spokesman refused to make an official comment on the "welcoming ceremony" for Kim Chong-pil held at Hotel Shilla Wednesday.

As to Kim's remarks, Rep Sim Myong-po simply said: "Who will object when he devotes himself to national development?"

Asked of the possibility that the ruling DJP makes an alliance with the Fraternity Club for National Revitalization made up of the supporters of Kim, he made no answer.

"A considerable number of" DJP members were learned to have attended the welcoming ceremony. They were most those who had been associated with the former ruling party.

Rep Pak Chan-chong of the major opposition NDP, who was a member of the DRP, asserted that "he certainly is one of the leaders in our times but now he should clear himself (from past wrongdoings)."

"He should clarify his political direction, rather than making ambiguous remarks," Pak said.

Kim Yong-chae, floor leader of the minor opposition KNP, said that his party will keep friendly relations with Kim J.P., recalling that the KNP president had declared recently his intention to welcome "J.P." Kim as president if he would join the KNP.

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S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

DAILY VIEWS UPCOMING DEBATE OVER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SK150050 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Code of Parliamentary Conduct"]

[Text] The National Assembly is to open its first working session of the year next week, amid precarious political circumstances involving the issue of amending the Constitution, a divisive issue that is likely to touch off heated debate between the ruling and opposition parties.

While the rival parties are bracing themselves in working out tactics for the parliamentary sitting, another controversial question has emerged with regard to the ruling Democratic Justice Party's move to revise the National Assembly Law in its apparent efforts to curtail and punish "obstructive" maneuvers by oppositionists on the floor.

An amendment to the Assembly Law has been discussed for some time, especially in the wake of the unilateral parliamentary passage of the 1986 national budget bill by the government party and the subsequent protest, including physical melees, staged by opposition lawmakers last December.

Thus disclosed earlier this week was a draft revision by the ruling party, which highlighted a marked strengthening of disciplinary measures against "delinquent" lawmakers, while conspicuously expanding the authority and power of the speaker in managing the parliamentary function and in ensuring orderly proceedings.

The DJP draft envisions, among other points, institutional safeguards against sit-ins and other disorderly or violent acts on the Assembly premises, which may prompt the speaker to call in security guards to remove parliamentarians in question from the scene.

Of course, there is no denying that proper guidelines or codes of conduct are necessary to forestall an abnormal functioning of the legislature and, moreover, to prevent the recurrence of violence in whatever form in the parliamentary chamber.

At the same time, it is to be noted that a desirable way of safeguarding an orderly and productive legislative function, as well as of elevating the dignity of lawmakers, be devised by the voluntary conduct on the part of parliamentarians themselves, rather than by the force of legal provisions armed with rigid disciplinary steps.

After all, the Assembly serves as the nation's political forum for the people's representatives, who in turn are expected to behave themselves. Besides, the mode of parliamentary function has been more often affected by the prevailing political climate than legal force.

Accordingly, it is hoped that far-reaching political insights by both ruling and opposition politicians will be duly reflected in the forthcoming debate on a revision of the Assembly Law.

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S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT STUDIES FORMATION OF CONSTITUTION PANEL

'Multiple Plans' Under Study

SK160400 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The government has embarked on the work of embodying President Chon Tu-hwan's idea to set up a special committee on the Constitution at the presidential office.

President Chon bared in his 24 February meeting with party leaders a plan to establish an ad hoc panel on the Constitution at his office, and the Cabinet resolved on 6 March to form the proposed panel as soon as possible.

Government sources said yesterday that the government is studying "multiple plans" about the panel's name, organization, function and selection of its members.

The National Assembly is also planning the establishment of a special committee on the Constitution in the upcoming extra session, but the rival parties are pitted against each other over the name, function and deadline for activities.

The sources said that the government is now screening some 100 candidates for the committee members since the end of last month.

The candidates were chosen from among scholars in areas pertaining to the Constitution, political science, economics and administrations, in addition to lawyers, and ranking government officials, according to them.

The names of the panel which the government is now studying are "Committee for the Study of the Constitution," "Committee for the Study of Constitutional Matters," and "Committee on the Revision of the Constitution," they said.

The committee will study basic data on both the direct presidential election and the indirect election systems, the parliamentary Cabinet system and the double executive system in preparation for its possible drafting of a revision bill, the sources said.

The ruling camp, as proposed by Chon, plans to rewrite the Constitution in 1989 after the peaceful transfer of power in 1988 against the opposition camp's call for the revision this fall.

The opposition camp opposes the establishment of the government's special committee, claiming that the operation of the committee is "a waste of national energy."

The projected parliamentary special committee on the Constitution is good enough for the study and amendment of the basic law, the oppositionists argue.

Parties Working Out Strategies

SK150045 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The rival parties are gearing up to map out strategies on the crucial issue of constitutional amendment to be debated in the year's first full House sitting, opening next Friday.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party and the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party held "floor strategy" meetings yesterday, respectively, mainly to discuss ways of countering the other party's plan on constitutional revision.

The DJP maintains that the basic law should be rewritten in 1989, after achieving a peaceful transfer of government in 1988, for the first time in the Republic's history.

On the contrary, the NDP claims the Constitution should be revised this fall and a new government should be established next year under the revised Constitution.

The sharp partisan confrontation over the question, plus the National Assembly Law revision issue, is expected to make the 20-day extra session suffer rough sailing.

In its floor strategy meeting, the DJP decided to concentrate on weakening the opposition camp's "out-of-parliament" struggle for constitutional revision and on bringing all pending political issues into the parliament.

The party also decided to seek to revise the Assembly Law "to prevent violent acts of lawmakers at the Assembly" during the special session.

The party aims at weakening the NDP's political offensives for constitutional revision by tackling the issue of the revision of the House Law.

On the other hand, the opposition NDP will focus its floor activities on asserting the necessity of constitutional revision and the legality of the ongoing signature-gathering campaign, while pointing out the "fictitiousness" of the ruling camp's offer to amend the basic law in 1989.

The party reaffirmed its earlier position that a parliamentary ad hoc committee should be formed, on the presumption that the Constitution will be revised in 1988. The name of the special panel should be the "Special Committee on Constitutional Amendment," it should be composed of Assemblymen of the same number from ruling and opposition parties, and it should conclude its work by the end of this year's regular House session.

Rep No Tae-u, chairman of the DJP, said in the meeting that the "upcoming extraordinary House session is so important as to determine the success or failure of parliamentary politics."

He asserted that the DJP must lead national politics on the occasion of the House session "fairly and squarely," thus to help the people trust the ruling party.

"The opposition forces are certain to resort to every way and means in the House sitting for their struggles for constitutional revision, both inside and outside the House," No said.

Floor leader Yi Se-ki said that the DJP will operate the House session flexibly, based on the principle that all political issues should be tackled in the parliament.

"We will strive to expand the national consensus on 'grand politics' (proposed by the president) during the session," Yi said.

Yi, who also is a chairman of the House Steering Committee, made it clear that the DJP will deal with "urgent" bills related to the people's livelihood, including some 41 bills pending at the House.

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S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

REPORTAGE ON 20-DAY SPECIAL HOUSE SESSION

Parties Agree on Agenda

SK190111 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Yi Chae-hyong yesterday posted a notice the 129th special Assembly session will be convened from Friday through 9 April.

According to an agreement reached between rival parties last week, the upcoming 20-day special sitting is slated to discuss three agendas during an interpellation: political (including diplomacy and national security), economic and social affairs.

Before the question and answer session, the Assembly is to hear a policy report from Prime Minister No Sin-yong and speeches from the leaders of the three major parties. However, rival parties have yet to reach an accord on the length of the interpellation session and the allocation of interpellators among floor negotiation groups.

To iron out remaining disagreements, senior vice floor leaders of the ruling Democratic Justice and major opposition New Korea Democratic parties met yesterday at a Seoul hotel.

But the meeting produced no visible result as they adhered to their previous positions; the DJP proposed a completion of the interpellation session by next Saturday while the NKDP demanded the 6-day question-answer sitting end 31 March, the day after the party holds a rally for a constitutional change in Kwangju.

Schedule for 20-Day Session

SK210038 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The National Assembly starts a 20-day special session today. An opening ceremony is slated for 2 pm.

The Democratic Justice, New Korea Democratic and Korea National parties yesterday reached an agreement on a schedule for this year's first session yesterday. The agreement came on the eve of the convocation of the session, ending days of wrangling over the timetable.

The schedule calls for Prime Minister No Sin-yong to brief the unicameral 275-member Assembly on the overall state administration affairs tomorrow.

The leaders of the three major parties will deliver keynote speeches Monday, most probably focusing on pro and con arguments on an early rewriting of the Constitution.

A 6-day interpellation session, the highlight of the special sitting, is scheduled for Tuesday through 31 March.

The Assembly will query the government on political, diplomatic and security affairs Monday and Tuesday.

The Assembly, which was inaugurated last April, will quiz the government on economic issues Thursday and Friday.

A 2-day interpellation on social affairs is reserved for 29 and 31 March.

The inquiry session will be followed by a [word indistinct], which will last from 1-7 April.

The Assembly will resume a plenary session 8 April to act on bills and other agenda items which will be referred by standing committees. The session will conclude 9 April.

Briefing reporters on the results of a meeting of senior vice floor leaders yesterday, Rep Chong Si-chae of the DJP said, "We have yet to set the date for confirmation of the appointment of a new chief justice."

Chong said the ruling DJP proposed that the confirmation motion be handled tomorrow, while the main opposition NKDP insisted that it be dealt with on 9 April.

The majority vice floor leader said rival parties will continue negotiation to set the timing for it.

If rival parties fail to reach an accord, "We (DJP) may have no choice but to push ahead with our own plan," he said.

He pointed out the confirmation concerns the formation of a governing body and should take precedence over "ordinary issues."

Speaker Yi Chae-hyong has already requested the chairman of the Steering Committee to seek action on the confirmation motion tomorrow, he said.

Meanwhile, the DJP and KNP will convene separate meetings of their lawmakers in the Assembly building today to add finishing touches on their floor strategies.

The majority party intends to allocate top priority to attracting all political debates to the Assembly forum, thus weakening the rationale for "politics outside the Assembly."

The NKDP called a similar meeting yesterday and adopted a resolution demanding the revision of the Constitution within this year.

Editorial Urges Conciliatory Approach

SK210058 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Parliamentary Task"]

[Text] The National Assembly is to open today a 20-day extraordinary session, the first working session for the year, amid precarious and indeed bleak prospects of its proceedings.

For one thing, on the eve of the opening, the ruling and opposition parties were still at odds in setting an overall timetable of the parliamentary activity during the session, even though the sitting had been convoked jointly by the parties.

Overshadowing the Assembly session and, for that matter, the political world at large is the long-standing divisive question over an amendment to the Constitution, which is accompanied by a number of touchy issues.

While the government camp has been adamant in its professed stand that a constitutional revision may be undertaken only after the presidential election conducted under the existing basic law and the staging of the Seoul Olympics, both slated for 1988, the opposition camp is stuck to its demand that the amendment be made within this year, bracing itself to push through the controversial drive aimed at garnering public support.

As for the upcoming Assembly session, the ruling party appears to be employing tactics to converge the constitutional debate within the boundary of the Assembly floor, as against the opposition's obvious attempt to wage the political campaign for rewriting the basic law both in and out of the parliament.

Owing to such contradictory approaches, the rival parties have been helplessly pitted against each other, even in setting business schedules for the Assembly session, which is laden with piles of bills necessitating prompt legislative actions, many of which are related to economic affairs and the people's livelihood.

For the general public, the persisting political stalemate offers nothing but profound worries, lest it might touch off a disastrous clash between the contending parties, resulting in a chaotic situation.

Accordingly, the political actors of both the government and opposition camps are earnestly called upon once again to restore composure and assume broad-minded postures to find room for compromise through meaningful dialogue and debate, getting rid of "all or nothing" stands.

The need for such a conciliatory approach seems to be all the more acute at this stage, as the forthcoming Assembly session may prove to be at a crucial turning point in the path of the nation's political development.

Assembly Convenes Special Session

SK210856 Seoul YONHAP in English 0830 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 21 Mar (YONHAP)--The National Assembly Friday convened a 20-day extra session to deal with state affairs and pending political issues. During the session, the lawmakers will hear administrative reports from Prime Minister No Sin-yong and will interpellate the government.

According to the timetable agreed upon by floor leaders of the ruling and opposition parties, Prime Minister No will deliver an address in a plenary session Saturday, and leaders of the three major political parties will deliver keynote addresses on Monday.

The legislators will take the podium to ask the government about various issues in plenary sessions, scheduled for 25-31 March.

After 7 days of activities in respective standing committees until 7 April, the unicameral legislature will convene plenary sessions 8 and 9 April to act on bills and motions.

Meanwhile, the rival parties are expected to engage in fierce debates over political issues, such as the establishment of an ad hoc committee to deal with the matter of constitutional revision, political observers here said.

The ruling and opposition parties are expected to wrangle over the christening of the committee and the period of the committee's existence, they said.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party has demanded that the committee be called the "National Assembly's Special Committee on the Constitution" and that the proposed body be in operation until the tenure of office of the current Assembly expires in 1989.

The opposition New Korea Democratic Party insists that the committee should be called the "Special Committee for the Revision of the Constitution" and that it be in operation only until the end of this year's regular National Assembly session, scheduled for 3 months from late September.

In an opening ceremony Friday, Speaker Yi Chae-hyong appealed to the Assembly members to develop democracy through bipartisan dialogue within the house.

Noting that the National Assembly has been unable to carry out its function as the "stage of dialogue" to solve state problems since late last year, Yi stressed that the current special Assembly should be a place for dialogue and reconciliation.

All the cabinet ministers attended the meeting.

DJP Chairman on Constitutional Revision

SK210916 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 21 Mar (YONHAP)--No Tae-u, chairman of South Korea's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), said Friday that the constitution should not be revised until 1988 under any circumstance and his party will discuss its revision in 1989.

"The most important national task now is the successful hosting of the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics" he emphasized.

No made the remarks in a speech before a general meeting of DJP lawmakers.

The opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) has demanded that the constitution be revised within 1986, for the direct election of the president.

Meanwhile, Sim Myong-po, spokesman for the DJP, explained that his party's basic position is that the constitution can be revised in 1989 in accordance with the people's intention after going through the necessary procedures written in the constitution.

"The DJP thinks its biggest task is to prevent the long-term seizure of power by one man and to establish a tradition of peaceful change of government. The DJP's position is that the constitution can be revised in accordance with the public opinion, after we establish such a tradition," Sim added.

Government, DJP Work Out Strategies

SK210054 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The government and the ruling Democratic Justice Party yesterday discussed strategies for the special National Assembly session to open today.

Party sources said that they shared the view in the meeting that the opposition camp's "illegal struggle" outside the parliament should be dealt with "sternly" as it will impede social stability.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister No Sin-yong, DJP Chairman No Tae-u and other high-ranking officials from the two sides, they said.

The DJP bared in the meeting that it would try to realize the revision of the National Assembly Law designed to prevent lawmakers' violence at the Assembly, the sources said.

The party also made it clear that it would not back off from its position on the question of creating a special parliamentary committee on the Constitution.

As to the controversial issue of naming the envisioned ad hoc panel, the DJP revealed in the meeting that the panel should be named the "Special Committee on the Constitution." It will never yield to the opposition demand that the panel be called the "Special Committee on Constitutional Amendment," the sources said.

Meanwhile, the DJP will hold a caucus of its lawmakers at the Assembly this morning to finalize its floor strategies for the extra House session.

NKDP To Seek Basic Law Revision

SK210056 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The main opposition New Korea Democratic Party will devote its whole efforts in the National Assembly for the struggle to secure a firm ground for constitutional revision within this year.

In a meeting for floor strategy, it reaffirmed that the amendment to the basic law to introduce the direct presidential election system is a "call of the era which should be achieved at any cost."

The NDP urged the government to withdraw its overture to revise the Constitution in 1989, 1 year after the stepdown of incumbent President Chon Tu-hwan.

In a resolution adopted in a party caucus, the NDP prodded the ruling camp to accept the opposition proposal for constitutional revision in 1986 and a presidential election in 1987.

The opposition party will take a tough offensive of demanding resignation of ministers of education, culture-information, home affairs and justice for the alleged mismanagement of education policies and a stern crackdown on the NDP's signature-gathering campaign.

The NDP whose floor strength falls short of the quorum for the introduction of a dismissal motion against a Cabinet minister yesterday left it for the party president and whip to decide on whether the NDP should seek joint actions with minor opposition parties.

Accord Sought for Constitutional Change

SK250045 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The leader of the ruling Democratic Justice Party stressed that the revision of the current Constitution will be possible only through an agreement between the ruling and opposition parties.

Party Chairman No Tae-u warned that the major opposition New Korea Democratic Party should not "rush out into the street" to incite the people in an attempt to seek the revision of the basic law.

"The only constitutional way by which the NDP can achieve the amendment is to draw an agreement between the ruling and opposition parties," No said.

He pointed out that even the ruling party alone, which has 53 percent, or 148 seats, of a total of 276 seats of the National Assembly, let alone the opposition NDP, cannot attain a constitutional change without support from the other party.

The current Constitution requires the approval of over two-thirds of the National Assembly for its amendment, to be finalized in a national referendum.

Therefore, he suggested that an ad hoc House committee on the basic law be installed in the Assembly to reach an agreement with regard to the constitutional revision.

The DJP chairman also asserted that it is the proper means for the national democratization to carry out the peaceful transfer of power through presidential election under the current Constitution.

No claimed that there had been a national consensus supporting the unprecedented peaceful transition of power in the national referendum conducted in 1980, which approved the current charter.

He went on, "Such a significant consensus should not be broken by a few politicians or by a minority party."

The No 2 leader of the ruling party suggested that the Presidential Election Law may be revised, if necessary, through an accord between the rival parties prior to the next presidential election.

As to the recent NDP movements, including the signature-collecting campaign to seek the constitutional amendment, No asserted that it could be considered as an attempt to take political power by way of revolutionary means. He criticized that some oppositionists have attempted to incite the people to support the constitutional revision to reintroduce a direct presidential election system with allegations that it will solve all the problems the nation is facing.

The common people, particularly the middle class, want a gradual reform and growth of the nation, the retired four-star general said.

By successfully undergoing such national tasks as the Asian Games this year and the Olympics in 1988, the nation will join the ranks of advanced countries, thus forming a basis for the national reunification, No said.

NKDP Refuses 1988 Elections Participation

HK241000 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 24 Mar (AFP)--The main opposition party declared Monday it would refuse to take part in the next presidential poll in 1988 unless the government first amended the electoral system.

But the ruling party, while it said it was prepared to work with the opposition for changes in the electoral law, tacitly rejected the opposition's demand for presidential polls by direct election.

Opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) Chairman Yi Min-u in a major policy address called the present system of electing the president by an indirect electoral college "undemocratic."

He said in the opposition's most clearcut warning to date that the NKDP would refuse to take part in the elections unless the system was changed. "The entire nation will totally reject such an election," he added.

The next presidential election is due in 1988.

Mr Yi told a full parliamentary session declared that "the sooner the Constitution is amended (to provide for presidential elections by popular vote), the better it is to end trouble and misfortune."

However, ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) Chairman No Tae-u tacitly rejected the opposition demand by telling Parliament that it was "most reasonable for democratic development" that the next presidential election be held in accordance with the present Constitution, for a peaceful transfer of power.

He quickly added that the ruling party was prepared to work with the opposition minority for changes in the presidential electoral law, but did not spell out what these changes were.

The NKDP demand, reiterated by Mr Yi in his speech, is that the present Constitution be amended this year before President Chon Tu-hwan ends his term in office in February 1988.

President Chon as a compromise has proposed that the constitutional changes be carried out in 1989 after a new president is elected by the existing system.

"Does this mean that President Chon intends to run for the presidency once again under a newly revised Constitution?" Mr Lee asked in his speech. The present Constitution limits the president to only one 7-year term.

The opposition party has called a nationwide petition campaign pressing for constitutional change and on Sunday organised a rally in the southern city of Pusan where several thousand people shouted anti-government slogans.

No Sin-yong Views Constitutional Revision

SK251323 Seoul YONHAP in English 1206 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 25 Mar (YONHAP)--South Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong said Tuesday it is the government's position that the revision of the constitution may be considered in 1989 after conducting "the three national tasks."

No stressed that now is the time for the government and the people to make concerted efforts to accomplish the tasks successfully. The three national tasks are the 1986 Asian Games, a peaceful power transfer under the current constitution and the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

In testimony before the National Assembly, No said, "Since his inauguration in 1981, President Chon has believed in the fact that only the realization of the single 7-year term of presidency and the peaceful change of political power can bring about democracy in the nation."

No also said that a constitutional research committee may be established in the government as occasion demands to study the issue of rewriting the constitution. He was answering to calls for constitutional rewriting made by Rep Pak Yong-man of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party and Rep Kim Kwang-su of the Korea National Party.

The prime minister said that the government is conducting working-level studies of a plan to establish a constitutional committee, as the president is authorized to propose constitutional amendments.

The timing for the inauguration of the body is subject to further research, he added.

Replying to questions concerning inter-Korean relations, he said the government will make steady and persistent efforts to realize a meeting of top leaders of South and North Korea.

NKP Leader Calls for Direct Election

SK250050 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Rep Yi Man-sop, president of the second opposition Korea National Party, said yesterday that the genuine peaceful transfer of power can be realized only when the president is elected by the people's own hands. "The absolute majority of the people are eager to elect the president by their own hands," he said, calling for the constitutional amendment to adopt the direct presidential election system.

He demanded that the basic law be revised before the incumbent president finishes his official term. "The next president ought to be elected under the revised Constitution," he stressed.

He rejected the ruling party's plan to rewrite the basic law in 1989 claiming that "the idea is both unreasonable and unpersuasive."

"Why are the ruling Democratic Justice Party and the government attempting to delay the constitutional revision while agreeing on the necessity of the revision?" he asked.

"The DJP should acknowledge the fact that the people decide to accept the idea of revision in 1989 as it is," he said.

"Since the Assembly has to make its best effort to find out national consensus, the Assembly should establish a special committee on the Constitution during the present extra session," he said.

The second opposition party leader proposed that "a high-level political talk" be held between the ruling and opposition camps to seek a "grand compromise" on difficult political problems, including the revision of the basic law.

He also said that the military should neither intervene in politics under any circumstances nor exercise any influence on politics in the days ahead.

"The real democracy can be realized only when the politics are led by civilians."

Lawmakers Heatedly Debate Revision

SK260016 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday started a 6-day interpellation session on overall state affairs with the attendance of Cabinet ministers, including Prime Minister No Sin-yong.

In the inquiry of government policies on political affairs, diplomacy and national security yesterday, Assemblymen from rival parties engaged in a hot debate on the constitutional amendment issue.

Three legislators took the floor to question the government's policy on political matters yesterday. They were Rep Pak Yong-man of the major opposition New Korea Democratic Party, Rep Kim Kwang-su of the minor opposition Korea National Party and Rep Na Sok-ho of the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

Calling for the reintroduction of the direct presidential election system, Rep Pak said that the election of the president by electoral college is a "formality" to rubber-stamp the ruling party candidate.

He went on that the DJP assertion of revising the basic law in 1989, one year after the end of the current presidential term is a "scheme to prolong the grip of power."

He then asked the government to disclose who ordered the house arrest of NDP members and "fighters for democracy" and the blockade of the NDP headquarters to impede the NDP's signature-gathering campaign last month.

Rep Kim of the KNP asserted that the present "political crisis" resulted from the controversial issue of the constitutional revision and therefore the crisis will never be overcome without the amendment to the Constitution.

He asked whether or not the ruling camp has withdrawn its pledge to revise the basic law in 1989, pointing out that DJP leaders said in the 21 March caucus that the question will depend on the situation in 1989.

Rep Na of the DJP asked the prime minister why government authorities have stopped arraigning those involved in the NDP's signature-collecting campaign since a meeting between the president and leaders of the three political parties 24 February.

He inquired whether the prime minister is still sure that peaceful transfer of power will be carried out without fail, in February 1988, given growing skepticism among some people.

The DJP lawmaker also asked No to disclose how the government is working on the formation of a special committee on the basic law under the presidential office.

Opposition Demands Direct Presidential Vote

SK270057 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Opposition lawmakers were again all-out to demand the revision of the constitution to reintroduce the direct presidential election system within this year in a House interpellation session for the second day in a row yesterday.

Ruling party members, however, focused their questions on diplomatic matters and national security problems.

Rep Ho Kyong-man of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party claimed that "Our demand for the revision of the basic law is inevitable because the current law rules out the possibility of electing a president according to the will of the people."

"The Chief Executive should be elected by the will of the people. Otherwise, any system cannot be said to be democratic," he argued.

"Even Cardinal Kim Su-hwan, who had stood aloof from politics, termed the present situation a crisis, and stated that in his view the only way to tide the nation over this crisis is to democratize the country through constitutional revision," he noted.

He then asked Prime Minister No Sin-yong what he thought of the cardinal's view.

He also said that the nation could not experience a peaceful change of power in the past, not because of loopholes in the political systems, but because of the "greed of the then rulers and of some political soldiers who forgot their duty."

Rep Chang Ki-uk, also from the NDP, claimed that the current Constitution "was enacted under martial law, so it has a clear-cut defect." "Therefore, the defect cannot be corrected only by the realization of the president's single term," he said.

"The regime of the Democratic Justice Party will be able to restore its legitimacy only when it corrects the defects of the current Constitution," he claimed.

The two NDP lawmakers also pressed the government on the police cordon around NDP headquarters to deter the signature-collecting campaign and on the indictment of 17 party lawmakers allegedly involved in the violence case at the Assembly.

Rep Chang further claimed that the true picture of the "incident" that took place during a dinner party for Defense Committee members Saturday should be bared nakedly in order to eradicate groundless rumors and to help "develop" the military.

Rep Yi Pom-chun of the ruling DJP stated in the course of a question that "now is the most dangerous time for the nation's security." "Our internal problems--political strife, campus commotions, and others--appear to be a serious element jeopardizing our security," he said.

"Such problems may lead the North Korean Communists to miscalculate that now is a golden opportunity to invade the south," he said.

The retired Army general urged the administration to work out due measures to prevent the excessive inflow of people into the metropolitan area, which he pointed out is "an obstacle" to the defense of the area.

Rep Kim Hyong-uk of the DJP asked about the possibility for holding talks between the highest authorities of the South and North.

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S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

FURTHER REPORT ON 23 MAR NKDP SPONSORED MEETING

SK241114 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 24 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] At 1400 on the afternoon of 23 March, the New Korea Democratic Party [NKDP] held a meeting at the Taehan theater in Pusanjin-Ku, Pusan, to form the Pusan chapter of the Committee for Promoting Constitutional Revision (the chairman of this chapter is party Vice President Yi Ki-taek), with the participation of party President Yi Min-u, party adviser Kim Yong-san, and national assemblymen from the NKDP.

More than 3,000 party members and ordinary citizens participated in this meeting. Many people who could not enter the theater watched the proceedings of the meeting, standing along the streets and alleys around the theater.

In a speech, party President Yi said: The formation of the Pusan chapter can be compared to the development of a democratic position by the Pusan citizens, who played a decisive role in bringing an end to the Yusin system. We can readily expedite the democratization of the country when we successfully perform our duty in assuming the role of taking the lead in the struggle for constitutional revision, in which we should not retreat and in which we have no place to retreat.

Party adviser Kim said: The peaceful transfer of power is only possible not when the person concerned is replaced but when the people can choose their leader in accordance with their free will. Who among our people would admit that the type of presidential election conducted in 1981 was a function for the peaceful transfer of power?

Party adviser Kim declared that if the presidential election is conducted in 1988 under the present Constitution, the NKDP will never send a candidate to this election.

Through a recorded cassette, Kim Tae-chung, co-chairman of the Council for Promotion of Democracy, who failed to participate in the meeting because police forces in Seoul made him return to his home, urged the present regime to ease the suffocating political situation and to guarantee the political neutrality of the military and a fair election. He then said: If the presidential election in 1988 is conducted under the present Constitution, we will never participate in it.

At a press conference conducted prior to the meeting, party President Yi said: The NKDP will inquire into the forcible convocation of the National Assembly session on 22 March in connection with the incident involving the dinner party of the National Assembly Defense Committee on 21 March. On 24 March, in a speech intended to make it possible for the National Assembly session to proceed and progress, we will demand an investigation into the incident.

Party President Yi said that he plans to form a special committee for an investigation into the incident.

At 1630 the same day, following the conclusion of the meeting, party members who participated in the meeting and citizens who were outside the meeting side marched, under the leadership of party President Yi and party adviser Kim, toward the building of the NKDP Pusanjin chapter some 600 meters from the meeting site. Citizens who were along the streets and alleys in the area encompassing Somyon crossroads joined the march, filling the 6-meter-long four-lane street linking the Taehan theater and Somyon crossroads.

Because of this, traffic in this area was at a standstill for a while. However, there was no clash between the marching crowd and police forces.

Upon arriving at the spot in front of the office of the NKDP Pusanjin chapter at 1640 in the afternoon, the party that sponsored the meeting urged the crowd to maintain order. After holding a ceremony to hang a signboard denoting the Committee for Promoting Constitutional Revision, party President Yi and party adviser Kim bade farewell to the citizens and moved toward Somyon crossroads.

When the party that sponsored the meeting left the party building, students and some citizens tried to stage a street demonstration, shouting slogans, singing songs, and forming ranks and huddling. Police forces began to suppress them by driving them toward sidewalks and alleys. People who gathered in the area encompassing Somyon crossroads dispersed at 1800.

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CSO: 4107/114

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

NKDP DELEGATION TO ATTEND SEMINAR IN U.S.

Review of Decision Urged

SK210102 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] In a party caucus yesterday to discuss floor strategy for a special House session, Rep Kim Hyon-su strongly urged party leaders to review the decision that NDP President Yi Min-u will lead a delegation to a U.S. Democratic Party-sponsored seminar.

He asserted that April will be "the most crucial period" for the struggle for constitutional revision, asking why President Yi himself should lead the delegation. Kim said that in April the party should concentrate all its energy on the struggle for the amendment to the Constitution during the extra House session.

He also pointed out that many rallies to establish local branches of the Center for the Promotion of the Constitutional Revision are to be held across the nation.

"It is the time to stage an intensive struggle for the amendment, led by the party president. Even if the exchange with the U.S. Democratic Party is important, the party president should not go abroad," he argued.

The NDP plans to dispatch a group of legislators to a seminar on Korean affairs which will be sponsored by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) on 13-19 April.

Yesterday the party named members of the delegation. They are, besides the party president, Reps Kim Tong-yong, Chang Ki-uk, Hong Sa-tok, Yi Yong-chun, Chong Chae-mun, Kim Hyon-kyu, Kim Tong-kyu and Pak Sil.

22 Member Group to Attend

SK260956 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 26 Mar (YONHAP)--The opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) Wednesday established a 22-member delegation to attend a workshop sponsored by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, which is affiliated with the U.S. Democratic Party.

The workshop will be held 13-19 April in the United States.

Kim Tong-yong, floor leader of the NKDP, will lead the delegation, which will include 14 other lawmakers and seven NKDP staff members.

The 14 legislators are Kim Hyon-kyu, So Sok-chae, Yi Yong-chun, Yi Chae-kon, Ho Kyong-ku, Pak Sil, An Tong-sun, Chang Ki-uk, Pan Hyong-sik, Yi Chol, Chung Chae-mun, Ko Han-chun, Yun Yong-tak and Song Hyon-sop.

Many NKDP Members Oppose Visit

SK280119 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 86 p 4

[From the "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] Rep Yi Min-u, president of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party, yesterday gave up leading his party's mammoth delegation to a seminar sponsored by the National Democratic Institute of the U.S. Democratic Party.

Earlier, he had planned to head the delegation composed of 15 lawmakers and seven other senior party members against strong criticism among party members.

Many party members are still critical of the "junket of a large number of lawmakers" in April when the party has many things to do with regard to its struggle for "democratization of the nation."

The seminar of the NDI led by Sen Walter Mondale is slated for 13-19 April.

The party named floor leader Kim Tong-yong to lead the delegation. Of the 22 delegates, only a few are said to be able to speak English "fluently" enough to express their political views.

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S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

BRIEFS

LEADERS DISCUSS STRATEGY--New Korea Democratic Party President Yi Min-u yesterday discussed with opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam about the floor strategy for the coming 20-day extra House session beginning Friday. In a get-together at Kim Yong-sam's house, the opposition leaders reaffirmed that the NDP will make political offensives against the ruling camp during the session, while pushing ahead with the ongoing signature-gathering campaign for constitutional amendment across the nation. They also discussed the projected exchange with the U.S. Democratic Party, including the formation of a delegation to a seminar on Korean affairs in Washington next month. The NDP plans to dispatch a group of Assemblymen to the seminar to be sponsored by the U.S. National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) led by Sen Walter Mondale. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

GUARD AROUND FOREIGN INSTALLATIONS--Seoul, 15 Mar (YONHAP)--The National Police Headquarters (NPH) Saturday directed police stations throughout Korea to strengthen procedures to guard government buildings and foreign installations to counter any possible attempts by militant students to seize the buildings. The directive was based on intelligence information concerning "written plans and instructions" for seizing certain buildings and holding sit-ins. The information has been circulated among some anti-government students, police sources said. Among the buildings targeted by the students are the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, the Labor Ministry, police stations and buildings housing foreign agencies, the sources said. The plans and instructions for staging blitz-like seizures of the buildings contain the names of the targeted buildings and other details, including the number of guards on duty and the locations of entrances, they added. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 15 Mar 86] /9604

FKI CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE BROKEN INTO--Sixteen student activists, including some coeds, broke into the chairman's office of the Federation of Korean Industries yesterday only to be arrested by policemen. According to a spokesman of the FKI, the students, believed to be from Yonsei, Ehwa and Hongik Universities, intruded into the office on the second floor of the FKI building in Yoido at around 12:20 pm. At the time, a female secretary was in the office alone during the lunch hour. Hyundai Chairman Chong Chu-yong is FKI chairman. The students were all led away to Yongdungpo

Police Station by the police immediately after their intrusion. It was learned that police forces had been stationed right next to the office for several days on a tip some students were planning to seize the office. No injuries were reported, but two windows were broken in brief scuffle between students and policemen. Before being arrested, the students shouted a slogan condemning conglomerates as "compradors" and attempted to scatter 200 leaflets called "note to eight million workers." [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

STUDENTS CLASH WITH POLICE--An estimated 1,000 Yonsei students and about 300 students of Seoul National University yesterday staged violent rallies at their campuses, shouting antigovernment slogans and hurling stones at riot policemen who moved into the campuses to disperse them. At Yonsei University, police fired teargas shells in order to scatter about 400 ralliers who were gathered in front of a school library around 1 pm to hear speeches of candidates running for the student council chairman. The number of ralliers suddenly increased to about 1,000 when police attempted to lead away eight students. The violent rally of exchanging stones and tear-gas shells lasted for about 2 and 1/2 hours. Students at the SNU hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at about 1,200 riot policemen who entered the campus to foil the projected inauguration ceremony of a new student council scheduled for 1 pm. Students were disbanded about 20 minutes later. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

KIM CHONG-PIL MEETS LAWMAKERS--Kim Chong-pil, former prime minister under the late President Pak Chong-hui, wined and dined yesterday with a few political leaders, including KNP President Yi Man-sop, at a Seoul hotel. Also present were Reps Yi Chol-sung and Kim Su-han of the NKDP and former prime minister Chong Il-kwon who arranged the dinner meeting. Kim's aides said "nothing political" was discussed at the dinner which was intended as "just a meeting of those who once engaged in politics together (with Kim)." Kim returned to Seoul 25 February after staying 1 and 1/2 years in the United States. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Mar 86 p 4] /9604

NEW CONSERVATIVE CLUB SEEKS PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM--The New Conservative Club yesterday proposed the revision of Constitution to clear the way for a parliamentary government system. Rep Yu Han-yol, leader of the 12-lawmaker group, alleged in a news conference the current interparty confrontation over the timing of a constitutional revision is "a cause of national catastrophe." To break the deadlock, he insisted the basic law be changed "as soon as possible" to introduce parliamentary government system, the National Assembly be dissolved and the next president be elected by a new Assembly. Yu added the group will be able to invite eight more lawmakers to join them and form a floor negotiation group "sooner or later." [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE--President Chon Tu-hwan has nominated Kim Yong-chol, a Supreme Court justice, as new chief justice, it was disclosed yesterday. The government yesterday submitted a motion to the National Assembly, seeking its consent for Kim's appointment as the ninth chief justice. Kim, 62, now concurrently serves as director of the Office of Court Administration. He will succeed Yu Tae-hung whose 5-year term of office expires on 15 April. Born in Songju in Kyongsangbuk-do, Kim has served in the bench for 29 years, the last 11 years as a Supreme Court

justice. He assumed the current post as the top court administrator on 17 April 1981. Once appointed as chief justice, Kim will reshuffle eight out of the 12 Supreme Court justices whose 5-year terms are due to expire on 17 April. Under the Constitution, justices will be reappointed by the president on the recommendation of the chief justice. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

MOTIONS AGAINST FOUR MINISTERS--The opposition New Korea Democratic Party and the Korea National Party yesterday decided to jointly introduce a motion for the dismissal of four Cabinet ministers for their "mismanagement of government policies and the crackdown on the opposition movement for constitutional revision." The four Cabinet members are ministers of education, culture-information, justice and home affairs. The major opposition NDP which has a floor strength less than the one-third the level needed to introduce such a motion had asked the KNP to take a joint action. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE--Seoul, 25 Mar (YONHAP)--The South Korean Government is expected to set up a constitutional research committee early next month, a government official said Tuesday. The government is now in the process of selecting 30 to 40 constitutional scholars and experts from various fields to comprise the committee, the official said. President Chon Tu-hwan said last month at a luncheon meeting with the leaders of Korea's three political parties that he will set up the committee to study the issue of amending the constitution. The committee will be chaired by a civilian constitutional expert, not by a government officials, the official said. The government had originally planned to establish the committee at the same time the assembly sets up a special constitutional committee. It has decided, however, to establish the committee regardless of when the National Assembly forms a similar committee, because the prospects of committee being inaugurated in the National Assembly are still obscure, the official said. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0901 GMT 25 Mar 86] /9604

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PRC--Rep Kim Hak-chun of the DJP said Thursday that relations between Korea and China might develop into the establishment of diplomatic ties "if it has proper justification." The professor-turned-lawmaker also said there is a great possibility that there will be a cross-recognition of Seoul and Pyongyang through four major powers--Washington, Tokyo, Moscow and Beijing. Kim was addressing the Northeast Asian situation and tension on the Korean peninsula at a seminar sponsored by Chongminhoe (Genuine Democratic Club), a fraternity of first-term lawmakers in the NKDP. Political observers said it was somewhat unprecedented for the opposition lawmakers to invite a ruling DJP lawmaker to speak at their seminar. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Mar 86 p 4] /9604

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S. KOREA/MILITARY AFFAIRS

PAPER CAUTIONS AGAINST WEAKENING OF WILL ON SECURITY

SK211420 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Mar 86 p 2

[Editorial: "Defense Minister's Press Conference--The Weakening of Will Is More Fearful Than Fighting Force"]

[Text] The report on the fighting force of the North Korean Armed Forces and their attack posture revealed by Defense Minister Yi Ki-paek in his press conference held on 20 March arouses afresh vigilance in the hearts of the people with regard to two aspects. First, 65 percent of the fighting force of the North Korean Armed Forces has been deployed in forward areas close to the frontline; North Korean Armed Forces are capable of launching a surprise attack against our capital, Seoul, within 8 minutes; and it has stockpiled a large amount of chemical weapons aimed at massively destroying fellow countrymen, thus leading us to sense the murderous atmosphere more keenly than at any previous time.

Second, his report is noteworthy because he compared the present situation to the state of affairs at the time the Korean war broke out. At that time, North Korea had a standing army of fewer than 200,000. The North Korean Army caught our armed forces by surprise by coming to the south with 230 tanks, of which we had none at that time. However, the fighting force of North Korea at that time pales in comparison with what it has now. Nevertheless, 1 million human lives had to be sacrificed.

Today, North Korea has fighting forces 4 times greater than what it had at the time the Korea war broke out, and 15 times more tanks that it had at that time. North Korea has repeatedly developed and increased its aircraft, ships, and ground firepower, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, to the point where it is too much for one to compare them. At the same time, our armed forces and fighting force are believed to be inferior to those of North Korea, at least at present. Minister Yi said that they will become equivalent by the 1990's.

Now, if this turns out to be true, the number of lives, whether in the North or the South, that will be sacrificed in the event North Korea makes a miscalculation and ignites the flames of war may be several times higher than the number sacrificed during the Korean war. Human lives aside, what will become of the properties built, even under different systems, in this land

with the sweat and blood of the people? The mere thought of this sends shivers up our spines.

The combined figure for the armed forces of the North and South is 1.4 million. By all accounts, it is a tragedy that military forces of this size, which rank right next to the Soviet Union and Communist China, are deployed across the truce line that bisects this country right in the middle. If such huge armed forces were deployed along a genuine border the existence of which no one could deny, this would be very desirable. Of course, the best thing we could hope for is that we would not need to deploy military forces along a genuine border. We must think about why our people have been so stupid as to have such huge armed forces standing face to face in the middle of our fatherland and have kept them standing there for nearly half a century.

What particularly impressed us in the remarks made at Minister Yi's press conference was his reference to the people's distrust with regard to national security and his call for cooperation with the military so that it can devote itself to the defense of the country. Successive governments since the Korean war should be held responsible for the distrust with regard to national security, if such distrust ever existed. As Minister Yi indicated that the distrust about national security in the past stems largely from the abuse of national security by those who ill-used it in an attempt to stay in power longer, the government should not become the boy who crys 'wolf' in the future.

Security by definition is too vague. Simply put, there can be no two different wills--namely, the will of the government and that of the people--in fighting against those who would force communist ideology on people by using military force. Also, the fight against those who are trying to force communist ideology on people by use of military force cannot be won by strengthening of military forces alone. It was not because the United States had weak military forces that it pulled out of Vietnam, nor was it because of the young people's antiwar ideology or the exposition of national secrets by the press, as bureaucrats have been inclined to believe. The United States suffered defeat in the war against the Vietnamese because the U.S. Administration in office at that time continued the war in defiance of the people, who did not want war in that part of the world.

It is natural, at least from the military standpoint, for the military to ask for cooperation from the people so that it can dedicate itself to the national defense. However, it is our belief that people will cooperate with the military naturally if the military is dedicated to the national defense.

We must passage indistinct⁷ Israel manage to put democratic principles into practice not through clashes but through debate, in the midst of acute confrontation between rival parties, and to remain ever-victorious in war with the Arab peoples around it, whose numbers are 40 times greater than Israel's population. What is more fearful than the North Korean Armed Forces is our internal division and the weakening of will.

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CSO: 4107/114

S. KOREA/ECONOMY

YONHAP REPORTS ON EPB GUIDELINES ON 1987 BUDGET

SK280242 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 28 Mar (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government plans to set its fiscal 1987 budget at 15.65 trillion won (U.S.\$17.68 billion: one U.S. dollar is worth about 885 won), an increase of 12-13 percent over this year's budget, according to guidelines set by the Economic Planning Board (EPB).

Under the guidelines, which were approved Friday by the Cabinet, the government will draft next year's budget in order to deal with changing economic and social conditions and to meet financial demands with flexibility, while maintaining healthy government finances.

Yi Chin-sol, EPB budget director, said that his office estimates that the budget will grow by 12-13 percent, because it expects real economic growth to reach 7.5 percent: the gross national product (GNP) deflator, an inflation-adjusted overall price index, to gain 3.5-4 percent; and the current account to grow 11.3-11.5 percent.

"With the 1988 Olympics one year ahead, the government has many projects that cannot be delayed," Yi said. "Because a great increase is also expected in the financial demands of the defense, social welfare, and farming and fishing sectors, a flexible operation is inevitable."

He said that the scale of the budget will be clarified in August.

The Korean Government plans to restrict as much as possible large-scale construction and civil engineering projects, while expanding investments in manufacturing industries to promote further growth and to sharpen the nation's international competitive edge, according to the EPB guidelines.

To enhance its financial efficiency, the government is also determined to expedite the process of improving the management of government-invested businesses and to set up a special account for the management of industrial investments in order to increase its income from dividends and to sell unnecessary shares.

The government has also decided to emphasize investments in the fields of science and technology, and manpower development in order to promote balanced regional development and to support small- and medium-sized industries, while taking steady measures for the comprehensive development of farming and fishing villages.

In the 1987 budget, the government will also allocate funds to steadily promote investments in 1988 Olympic projects, to step up support for the low-income class, as well as for the sectors that lag behind and to reinforce national security capabilities.

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CSO: 4100/107

S. KOREA/SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNMENT GEARS UP TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT

SK150412 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 15 Mar (YONHAP)--The South Korean Government has geared up its technology research and development (R&D) efforts in response to the growing international trend toward protectionism.

Deputy Premier and Economic Planning Minister Kim Man-che Friday told the government-private policy consultative body that the government has earmarked 371.1 billion won (nearly U.S.\$417 million: one dollar is worth about 890 won) for R&D this year, up 47.8 percent from 1985.

Kim also said that the government has decided to raise the ceiling for the tax-free R&D funds of private industries to 1.5 to 2 percent of their annual turnover from the 1 percent now.

By doing so, the government intends to boost Korea's R&D investment to 2 percent of its gross national product (GNP) this year from 1.7 percent last year.

Under the government's policy measures, Korea's (R&D) investment will reach 2.5 percent of the GNP in a couple of years, about the same level as the United States (2.65 percent), West Germany (2.8 percent) and Japan (2.35 percent).

The government also plans to extend tax favors to businesses that invest in high-tech R&D facilities and to conduct a series of high-tech training programs, while applying a favorable depreciation system to those facilities, the top economic policymaker said at the meeting, which is held every Friday.

"We can no longer expect economic growth on the strength of the labor-intensive industries as was the case in the 1960-70 period," Kim said. "Technology development must be maximized in order to ensure the nation's economic survival in the ever-worsening international climate."

Under the policy package, drafted by the economic planning board, the government will also expand tax cuts for R&D investments up to 20 percent from 10 percent now.

The policy package will also allow private firms to carry forward their tax benefits for future R&D investments and to expand the kinds of R&D equipment subject to tariff reductions, which now number 177.

"With these and other measures, the government aims to achieve a ranking of 10th in the world in terms of technological development by the turn of the 21st century," Kim said.

Venture businesses will be admitted into such new areas as leasing and factoring and will be encouraged to introduce new technologies that are developed abroad.

The government also plans to expand the trust guarantee fund to 25 billion won (\$28 million) this year from 9.2 billion won (\$10.3 million) last year and to simplify administrative procedures for R&D projects.

Attending the meeting, which was chaired by Kim, were Finance Minister Chong In-yong, Science and Technology Minister Chon Hak-che and a dozen business leaders and scholars.

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CSO: 4100/104

S. KOREA/SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REPORT VIEWS PROSPECTS FOR SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY

Seoul KUKGA CHANGGI PALJON KUSANG in Korean Dec 85 pp 210-219

Article entitled "The Semiconductor Industry" from the December 1985 Korean Institute of Economics and Technology Report/

[Text]

DOMESTIC OUTLOOK

(1) Supply and Demand

1) Key Judgment

Our country's domestic demand is not large enough to support the semiconductor industry's continuous growth. Therefore in the 1990s' semiconductor industry has no choice but to rely upon export for its growth just as in the 1980s. We are expecting the advancement of our domestic semiconductor and raw material industries to influence a gradual decrease in the importation of materials and parts for the manufacturing semiconductor products.

Looking closely at the situation, the annual production growth rate for 1984-1990 will be 15.1% and is expecting to reach a real growth rate of 13.2%, approximately 1.6 trillion won (at 1980 constant prices) in 1990 and approximately 5.5 trillion won (at 1980 constant prices) in the year. Export will have an annual growth rate of 13.9% for 1984-1990 and 12.7% in the 1990s and are predicted 1.4 trillion won in 1990 and 4.6 trillion won in the year 2000. Also the export ratio will slowly decrease from 1983's 95.4% to 88.9% in the 1990s and to 85.2% in the 2000s.

Our country's domestic demand will increase at an annual rate of 12.6% in 1984-1990 and 11.3% in the 1990s. Imports will increase at an annual rate of 11.2% for 1984-1990 and 10.3% for the 1990s, showing a slightly lower rate of growth than the domestic demand. Dependancy on imports is expected to fall from 1983's 50% to 44.1% in the 1990s and 38% in the year 2000.

2) Discrete Semiconductor Elements

Due to the increased use of Integrated Circuits's (IC) parts and the development of semiconductor manufacturing industries in the major countries, the increased rate of export and export ratio will also go down considerably. During 1984-1990, exports will have an average annual growth rate of 8.5% and be held at about 7.6% in the 1990s.

Exports will be approximately 200 billion won (at 1980's constant prices) in 1990 and about 400 billion won in the year 2000. Also the export ratio will fall from 1983's 81.1% to 68.2% in 1990 and to 55.4% in the year 2000. With decreased imports, production is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 11.2% in the 1980s and 9.9% in the 1990s, reaching approximately 277 billion won in 1990 and 710 billion won in the year 2000. Because a production growth rate of 9% is expected while import growth rate will be below 6% and the dependency on imports will fall from 1983's 28.6% to 22.2% in 1990 and to 16.1% in the year 2000.

3) Integrated Circuits (IC)

Unlike discrete elements ICs are expected to reach high growth in production, exports and domestic demand. Benefitting from the continuous growth of exports and domestic demand, production is expected to achieve a high annual growth rate of 16.1% for 1984-1990 and 13.7% in the 1990s amounting to over 4.7 trillion won by the year 2000 (at 1980 constant prices). However, the growth of export will be a slightly lower than production, but, still the exports are expected to exceed 4.2 trillion won in the year 2000 showing export production ratio of 89.7%.

Dependency on imports will decrease considerably because of lower imports and increased domestic demand. The real growth in imports will be held to 7% due to advances in the domestic semiconductor industry. With our country's advanced development in the electronics industry and its continuous usage of the applied techniques, our domestic demand is expected to grow high at an annual rate of 13% for 1984 thru 1990 and 12% in the 1990s which will permit for lowering dependency on imports to an annual 12.5% for 1983-1990 and 7.1% in the year 2000

(2) Outlooks for the Balance of Trade

1) Key Judgment

If imports of material and components for manufacturing semiconductor products are included, the semiconductor industry recorded a trade deficit of \$18 million in 1983. But, with the development of the domestic semiconductor products and its raw material industries, the increase in exports will be much greater than imports which will improve the balance of trade significantly. In other words, we are expecting that exports will show an annual growth rate of 19% from 1984 to 1990 and 16.1% in the 1990s while imports are expected to show an annual growth rate of 15.9% from 1984 to 1990 and 13.6% in the 1990s. Therefore, we are predicting the balance of trade to record a surplus of over \$400 million in 1990 and \$3.8 billion in the year 2000.

2) Discrete Elements of Semiconductor

The export of discrete elements of semiconductors are expected to grow by an annual average of 13.3% for 1984-1990, and 10% in the 1990s. We are anticipating the export scale to be \$369 million in 1990 and \$1.031 billion

in the year 2000. Meanwhile, imports will show an annual increase of 11% in 1984-1990 and 8.2% in the 1990s. Imports will reach \$154 million and \$340 million by the year 2000. Accordingly, the surplus in the balance of trade will gradually increase to reach \$200 million in 1990 and \$700 million in the year 2000.

5) Integrated Circuits (IC)

Due to massive investments by domestic semiconductor industries, our country's semiconductor industry is currently expanding at a rapid rate and the trend is expected to continue in the future. Exports will show an annual increase of 20.2% in 1984-1990 and 16.7% in the 1990s. By 1990 exports are expected to reach \$2.4 billion, and \$11.2 billion in the year 2000. Imports are expected to grow at a low rate, reaching an annual 11.6% for 1984-1990 and 10.1% in the 1990s. So, the balance of trade surplus is expected to increase from 1983's \$500 million to \$2 billion in 1990 and \$10 billion by the year 2000.

(3) Semiconductor Positions in the Domestic Electronics Industry

The importance of the semiconductor industry in the electronics industry and electronic components' industry is expected to grow. The production of semiconductors for electronic products will increase from the 15% of 1983 to only 16% in 1990 and 18% in the year 2000. On the other hand, electronic components are expected to increase considerably, from 35% in 1983 to 40% in 1990 and 48% by the year 2000.

Meanwhile, export of semiconductor products comprised 56.1% of total electronic components products export in 1983 and it will probably continue to grow in the future to reach a level of 66% by the year 2000. However, taken as a part of the total export of electronic products, it is expected to decrease somewhat, 26% in 1983 to 25% in the year 2000. The reason for the decrease is that the rate of industrial electronics equipment is clearly increasing (taking a large percentage of the electronics products) and we can safely expect that its high growth rate will continue in the future. Therefore, the export growth rate for overall electronic products will exceed the growth rate of exports of semiconductor products.

(4) Position in the world market

Currently our country's semiconductor industry is growing rapidly and its important position in the World Market will grow ever stronger. Our country's export of semiconductor products in 1983 were 5.3% of the total world trade, our expectations for the 1990s are 8.8% and 11.1% by the year 2000. Of these exports, discrete elements are expected to increase from 4.5% of world total in 1981 to 6.7% in the 1990s and to 10.3% in the year 2000. ICs are expected to increase from 5.7% of the world total in 1980 to 9.2% in the 1990s and to 11.2% by the year 2000.

Table IV-20. Relative importance in the world export market
unit: \$ million

	Categories	1981	1990	2000
World exports	discrete elements (A)	3,130	5,517	9,974
	IC (B)	6,054	25,845	100,099
	total (C)	9,184	31,362	110,074
Korean exports	discrete elements (D)	140	369	1,031
	IC (E)	313	2,383	11,162
	total (F)	483	2,752	12,193
	D / A (%)	4.5	6.7	10.3
	E / B (%)	5.7	9.2	11.2
	F / C (%)	5.3	8.8	11.1

Source: KIET estimates

(5) Projected Level of Technology

1) Overall Trends

Since the development of the IC in 1962, semiconductor technology has been developing advanced technologies continuously through its search for higher levels of integration. As a result, ICs have passed through various stages of scale, the small scale integration (SSI), medium scale integration (MSI), large scale integration (LSI) and now, very large scale integration (VSLI). This trend towards higher levels of integration is expected to continue in the future as well, developing into ultra large scale integration (ULSI). These will naturally bring about lower prices, higher reliability and energy efficiency in the products. According to a statistical report, when a MOS RAM (metal-oxide semiconductor random access memory) increases from 1K (kilobit) level to the 16K level, the malfunction rate goes down to approximately one fifteenth. As the level of integration increases, the production capability will also increase and the cost of materials will drop sharply thus making possible reduction in price. The price per bit in 1980 was about 98% lower than in 1971. Also, the speed of operation will increase parallel to the increased rate of integration which will cause notably lower consumption of electrical current. For example, the 256K DRAM (dynamic random access memory) works in one half the time required by the 64K DRAM and consumes only one third of the electrical current.

The overall trend in semiconductor technology will be towards increased levels of integration, reliability, lower prices, and the energy efficiency. We also expect a continued effort in adopting and utilizing the forward trend of technological development.

Table IV-21. Projected level of technology

	Korea	Advanced countries
At present	256K DRAM mass production Independent design incapability 64K SRAM development assembly production of TIL • assembly production of TIL •	256K DRAM mass production 1M DRAM development 256K SRAM development PAL inexpensive mass production 32 bit 1 chip microprocessor mass production
1986-1990	1M DRAM development & mass production autonomous development & production of logic 4M DRAM development 16 bit microprocessor development	1M DRAM mass production 256K SRAM mass production 4M DRAM and 1M SRAM development inexpensive optical semiconductor
1991-2000	4M DRAM mass production PAL mass production 16 bit microprocessor mass production	development of special components for artificial intelligence 4M-16M DRAM mass production optical semiconductor mass production

2) Projected Level of Technology

With the development of the 64K DRAM in 1983 and the start of mass production in 1984, our country's semiconductor production level has been increasing rapidly. At present, our country has facilities for mass production of the 256K DRAM, and by the 1990s we will develop and be able to begin mass production of the 1 M DRAM. Also the successful development of the 4M DRAM by the late 1980s and the start of mass production in the 1990s are in the horizon. Thus, our semiconductor production technology will be in close pursuit of the advanced countries' technological standards. However, we are far behind the advanced countries' technologies in the areas of designing and wafer preprocessing and it will take a long time to narrow the technology gap. Please note table IV-21 for the specific development of technological standards of advanced countries and our country's.

(6) Projected Investment Requirements

1) Projected Research and Development (R&D) Investment Requirements

Because our country's semiconductor industry's production system has concentrated on simple assembly there has been no great need for R&D investment in the past, therefore the R&D investment in the semiconductor industry has been extremely low. But, our industry is expected to move away from assembly type production to a complete and comprehensive production system which will demand for a large R&D investments in the future. Between 1985-1990, approximately 6%, about 412 billion won (1980 constant value) of production investment will be needed for R&D and 8%, about 2.66 trillion won (1980 constant value) of total production is foreseen for R&D projects for the period of 1991 to the year 2000.

Table IV-22. Projected R&D Investment Needs

Category	1985 ~ 90	1991 ~ 2000
R&D investment	412 billion won	2,660 billion won
Ratio to production	6%	8%

Source: KIET estimates

2) Projected Needs for Capital Investment

Because the semiconductor industry is one of the rapidly advancing technologies, it will also be in a great need of much better facilities which will require an investment for facilities. Even more capital investment will be needed when the current simple production system changes to a complete and comprehensive production system. Our country's wafer assembly companies have been making massive investments since the early 1980s in order to acquire comprehensive production system. From 1985 to 1990, we predict that about 10% of the industry's total production cost will be for capital investment and slightly higher rate of 11% for the 1990s. In other words, about 700 billion won will be needed for 1985 thru 1990 and 3.7 trillion won will be needed for 1991 thru 2000.

Table IV-23. Projected Capital Investment Needs
unit: billion won (1980 constant prices)

Category	1990	2000	1985 ~ 90	1991 ~ 2000
Facility investment	159 [₩ 72 ₩ 87]	600 [₩ 252 ₩ 318]	693 [₩ 312 ₩ 381]	3,664 [₩ 1,539 ₩ 2,125]
Ratio to production	10%	11%	-	-

Source: KIET estimates

Note: upper on facility investment line - new
lower on facility investment line - replacement

(7) Projected Manpower Needs

We expect a rapid growth in our country's semiconductor industry which will demand increased manpower needs.

To absorb the massive investment for the transition from a simple assembly type production system to a comprehensive and complete production system, the demand for high quality manpower such as special researchers and technicians will increase rapidly. In 1983, only about 1% of all positions were research positions. This is expected to increase to 5% in 1990 and 9% in the year 2000. The ratio of technical positions to the total number of positions is expected to increase from 7% in 1983 to 11% in the 1990s and to 15% by the year 2000. Conversely, the ratio of the skilled workers is expected to decline from 83% in 1983 to 76% in 1990 and 70% in the year 2000.

Overall employment in the industry is expected to increase from 24,000 in 1983 to 47,000 in the 1990s and 92,000 in the year 2000.

Table IV-24. Projected Manpower Needs

unit: person.

Category	1983	1990	2000	Annual increase rate	
				1984 ~ 90	1991 ~ 2000
Research positions	220 (0.9)	2,350 (5.0)	8,280 (9.0)	40.3	13.4
Technical positions	1,600 (6.7)	5,170 (11.0)	13,800 (15.0)	18.2	10.3
Skilled worker positions	19,880 (82.8)	35,720 (76.0)	64,400 (70.0)	8.7	6.1
Office worker positions	2,300 (9.6)	3,760 (8.0)	5,520 (6.0)	7.3	3.9
Total	24,000 (100.0)	47,000 (100.0)	92,000 (100.0)	10.0	6.9

Source: KIET estimates

() percentage of total composition

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S. KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

YONHAP REPORTS ON ITINERARY OF CHON'S VISIT TO EUROPE

SK250031 Seoul YONHAP in English 0010 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 25 Mar (YONHAP)--South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan will make an official visit to Britain, West Germany, France and Belgium from 7 April to 18 April for summit talks with leaders of those nations, presidential spokesman Chong Ku-ho announced Tuesday.

Chon, accompanied by First Lady Yi Sun-cha and a 17-member official entourage will also visit the Commission of European Communities on 17 April, while in Belgium, the spokesman said. The entourage will include Deputy Prime Minister Kim Man-che and Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong.

During his European tour, Chon will hold summit talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Francois Mitterrand, Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Jacques Delors, president of the Commission of European Communities.

In the meetings, they are expected to discuss ways to promote the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between Korea and the nations of Europe, the spokesman said.

They will also exchange views on recent developments in northeast Asia and on the international scene and will discuss ways to improve diplomatic cooperation in laying foundations for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, Chong said.

The leaders will also make plans for long-term cooperation into the 21st century, based on shared perceptions of the current world economic situation, according to the announcement.

In addition, Chon will attend dinners or luncheons with British Queen Elizabeth II, West German President Richard von Weizsaecker, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Belgian King Baudouin I.

Chon also plans to provide encouragement to Korean residents in Europe.

The president, according to the announcement, will leave here on 5 April and will stop in Vancouver, Lausanne and Seattle on his way to or from the four European countries. He is scheduled to return home on 21 April.

A 34-member private economic mission that will accompany Chon on the tour will try to promote economic cooperation between Korea and the nations of Europe, the announcement said. A government official said that Seoul will seek ways to double the trade volume between Korea and the European nations before 1990 during the upcoming presidential tour.

The Korean Government is expected to ask the European nations to increase their investments in Korea and to transfer technology to Korea, the official said.

It will also ask the nations to ease regulations on the importation of Korean-made goods and to continue to apply the generalized system of preferences on Korean products, the official said.

The official also said that the president will explain Korea's ideas for preventing the recurrence of war and for securing peace and stability on the Korean peninsula to the leaders of the European nations.

Through an exchange of views with the European leaders on the situation in northeast Asia, the president will try to improve their understanding of the situation on the Korean peninsula, the official added.

The itinerary of Chon's tour is as follows:

5 April - depart
5 to 6 April - stopover in Vancouver
7 to 10 April - visit to Britain
10 to 12 April - visit to West Germany
12 to 14 April - stay in Lausanne
14 to 16 April - visit to France
16 to 18 April - visit to Belgium
18 to 20 April - stopover in Seattle
21 April - return home

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S. KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

REPORTAGE ON PLANNED VISIT BY JAPANESE PRINCE

Opposition Group To 'Impede' Visit

OW200809 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 20 Mar (KYODO)--South Korea's largest opposition and dissident group said in a statement Thursday it will impede a planned visit to South Korea by Japan's Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko "by all possible means."

The statement was announced by the "Federation of Popular Movements for Democratic Unification" chaired by the Rev Mun Ik-hwan. The group is the first to state it will obstruct the royal couple's visit.

The statement said the crown prince is reportedly more liberal (than the emperor) but that he is being used by Japan's militarists. It said the Japanese Government is promoting the planned visit by the royal couple with a view to strengthening Japan's economic, military and cultural invasion of South Korea after creating a friendly atmosphere with the royal couple's visit.

The federation also said it believes heads of state and government heads from any country can be welcomed in South Korea after South Korea is democratized and South and North Korea unified.

The federation and four other groups including the top opposition New Korea Democratic Party decided Monday to oppose the planned visit by the royal couple.

The federation was formed by 23 civic, labor, religious and other groups in March last year.

A Seoul morning paper, the CHOSON ILBO said in its editorial Thursday that it will side with opposition and dissident forces objecting to the royal visit.

North Korea's official party newspaper, the NODONG SINMUN, in a commentary on 30 January said South Korea's invitation of the Japanese imperial family was "intolerable."

Envoy to Japan Welcomes Planned Visit

SK220011 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] Japanese Crown Prince Akihito's planned visit to Seoul this year would help "clear the unfortunate past" between the two countries, Ambassador to Japan Yi Kyu-ho said yesterday. Akihito will be coming to Seoul in place of his father, Emperor Hirohito, who is considered a spiritual strengthener for the Japanese people. As such, the crown prince's visit is of great significance and is expected to help increase mutual understanding and cooperation, said Yi in an interview.

Saying that there seem to remain lingering memories of the unfortunate past relations, the ambassador stressed the two peoples should exert "positive" efforts to heal the "emotional scars."

He said he expects the visit to Seoul by the heir to the Japanese royal family would provide a momentum for the two sides to mend the wounds.

Asked if, during his stay in Seoul, Akihito would make an apology for Japan's past colonial rule over Korea, Yi said "that is the matter to be decided by the Japanese side."

Akihito's visit is also meaningful in that it reciprocates President Chon Tu-hwan's visit to Japan in 1984, noted the ambassador. Chon is the first Korean head of state to make a state visit to Japan.

Commenting on recent reports that Ho Tam, former North Korean foreign minister, has been invited by Japanese lawmakers to visit Japan, Yi said he does not think the Japanese Government would issue an entry visa for Ho. "Japan has exercised restraints as far as its relations with North Korea are concerned. And I think it will continue to do so," he said.

Referring to general relations between Seoul and Tokyo, the 60-year-old diplomat said he could see a "matured atmosphere of friendship."

The new climate has been formed since the exchange visits by President Chon and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Yi said. He added that he thinks it is fortunate that he works under such a vastly improved condition.

The professor-turned-diplomat expressed hope the two countries would pay attention not only to political and economic fields but to cultural and academic sectors.

He said he will endeavor to establish a "pipeline" through which exchanges of journalists, professors and other people in cultural fields could be further expedited between the two countries.

A one-time education minister, Ambassador Yi said he will attempt to help promote joint research into the ancient history of the two countries.

Yi has been serving in Tokyo since last November. Before being appointed to the ambassadorship, he had served as education minister, national unification minister and secretary general to the president.

No Sin-yong Supports Visit

SK261242 Seoul YONHAP in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 26 Mar (YONHAP)—South Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong Wednesday said that it would be desirable for Korean-Japanese relations to push for a plan to invite Japanese Crown Prince Akihito to visit Seoul as scheduled.

Testifying before the National Assembly's interpellation session here Wednesday afternoon, the prime minister said that the planned visit would lead to better relationship between Seoul and Tokyo in view of the fact that it will be arranged in return for Korean President Chon Tu-hwan's trip to Japan in September 1984.

No was answering a question raised by Rep Ho Kyong-man of the nation's main opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), who called on the government to put off inviting the Japanese crown prince.

On 11 March, both the Seoul and the Tokyo government announced simultaneously that they would work on preparations for the visit of the Japanese crown prince. Korean Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyung told reporters that the visit may take place in the latter half of this year at the earliest after the two nations are relieved from their busy internal events.

No also told lawmakers that the country will have a diplomatic advantage over North Korea in seeking joint entrance into the United Nations after making the 1988 Seoul Olympics a success.

He went on to say that the successful hosting of the 1988 Olympiad will help enhance chances for cross-recognition of Seoul and Pyongyang by four major powers--the United States, Japan, China and the Soviet Union.

Touching on the opposition party's consistent call for amnesty and restoration of civil rights of dissident leader Kim Tae-chung, he said that the government will determine the issue within the legal framework, depending upon his present and future conduct. Kim, 61, is under a suspended 20-year imprisonment sentence.

The Assembly was in the second day of a 6-day interpellation session Wednesday to question the government on political, diplomatic and security affairs.

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CSO: 4100/107

S. KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

ENVOY ASSESSES KOREAN-INDIAN RELATIONSHIP

SK170405 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 17 Mar (YONHAP)--Indian Government's relations with South Korea is "more beneficial in substance" to its interests than its relations with North Korea, Sin Tong-won, South Korean ambassador to India, said here Monday.

Sin said that India, which exercises "great influence on the international society" as leader of the nonaligned Third World, maintains equidistant relations with South and North Korea. However, Sin continued, India evaluates highly South Korea's improved status in the international society resulting from its growing national power.

In an interview with YONHAP News Agency, the 53-year-old ambassador said that the role of India, leader of the nonaligned nations, which are scheduled to hold a foreign ministers conference in New Delhi next month, is more crucial than at any other time to South Korea in its confrontation with communist North Korea.

"In consideration of the fact that the nonaligned summit conference will be held in August in Zimbabwe, which is maintaining close relationship with North Korea, promotion of relations with India and other leading countries of the nonaligned group cannot be emphasized too much," he said.

Noting that North Korea failed in an attempt to insert phrases related to South Korea, including a call for the withdrawal of foreign troops, into the resolution at the nonaligned foreign ministers conference held in Angola last year, the career diplomat stressed the necessity for the promotion of substantial relations with nonaligned countries through south-south cooperation.

Sin, who has served at the Foreign Ministry for his entire 29-year career, said that the Nonaligned Movement has been heading for a "constructive role" in the international society since India was elected chairman of the movement.

"It has been understood that the Nonaligned Movement was taking a radical left-leaning line, especially after Cuba assumed leadership of the movement in the 1979 Havana summitry. However, the movement has converted to a centrist line eventually, since India took the leading role," he said.

Sin emphasized that South Korea's relations with nonaligned countries should be promoted through cooperation in "substantial" fields such as trade and economy, science and technology, and culture, rather than on the political dimension.

"India, whose population stands at 750 million, is the largest trade market among the countries with which we have diplomatic relations" he said.

"Although India does not have sufficient purchasing power for our high-quality products, due to its low national income, the great potential of India as a resource-rich nation will make the nation one of our major trade partners in the future. To India, we are the seventh largest trade partner, following the United States, Britain, Japan, the Soviet Union, West Germany and Saudi Arabia."

Sin said that although bilateral trade between South Korea and India suffered a slight setback last year, South Korea's exports to India totaled U.S.\$1.05 billion and its imports from that country amounted to \$400 million in 1984.

He predicted that South Korea will emerge as India's fifth largest trading partner at the end of India's seventh 5-year economic development plan (1986-90).

"India is showing an increasing interest in technology and capital joint ventures with us as well as in joint advances into third countries," he said. "In particular, India hopes for technical cooperation with us in electronic, petrochemical, shipbuilding, and machinery industries."

Sin said that the two countries are expected to enhance cooperation in the shipbuilding and construction industries.

He disclosed that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong, who recently visited India, that he will settle soon the matter of India's purchase of 29 vessels which it ordered from Korean shipbuilders. The value of the vessels totals \$400 million.

Sin also said India would give favorable consideration to the participation of Korean construction companies in port expansion projects.

He said that South Korea will have to turn its eyes to countries with great potential, such as India, as part of its effort to diversify trade markets and to cope with mounting protectionism in industrialized nations.

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CSO: 4100/104

S. KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLES NINE OVERSEAS MISSION CHIEFS

SK180309 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 18 Mar (YONHAP)--The South Korean Government Tuesday reshuffled the heads of nine overseas diplomatic missions. In the shake-up, the government named Choe Pil-lip, a researcher at the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), as ambassador to New Zealand. Choe, 58, served as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates between 1981 and 1983, before taking the post at the institute.

Chong Mun-kil, an IFANS researcher, was appointed ambassador to Denmark. The 58-year-old Chong served as ambassador to Sri Lanka between 1981 and 1983, before he was transferred to the institute.

The government selected Kwon Tong-man, another IFANS researcher, as ambassador to Switzerland. Kwon, 56, became head of the ministry's Information Cultural Affairs Bureau in 1984.

Cho Kwang-che, chief of the training department, was appointed ambassador to Venezuela. The 55-year-old diplomat was ambassador to Chile between 1981 and 1983.

Song Hak-won, 52, a consul general in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States, was named ambassador to Liberia.

Pak Yun, 51, director general of the ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, replaces Song in heading the consulate general in Atlanta.

The government also appointed Kang Sung-ku, 55, director of the institute's African and Middle East Research Department, as ambassador to Brunei. Before he was assigned to the directorship, Kang was minister of the Korean Embassy in Iran.

Chang Myong-ha, 51, director general of the ministry's Consular Overseas Resident Affairs Bureau, was chosen as ambassador to Turkey.

Kwon Yong-sun, 54, another IFANS researcher, was named ambassador to Paraguay.

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S. KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

BRIEFS

TRADE MISSION TO TOUR EUROPE--Seoul, 24 Mar (YONHAP)--A high-powered South Korean trade mission comprising about 30 leading businessmen will tour Western European nations in April to promote trade and industrial cooperation, business sources here said Monday. The mission will include Chong Chu-yong, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries, and Chong Su-chang, president of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Their destinations will include the United Kingdom and France, but they have not yet made an exact itinerary, the sources said. During meetings, the Korean business leaders are expected to emphasize the strengthening economic relations between Korea and the European nations, mostly the members of the European Economic Community, they said. Technological cooperation will be the major topic of discussion at the meetings, they added. The Korean businessmen are also expected to request direct investments by European companies in Korea. Industrial collaboration between Korea and European countries would benefit both sides, the sources said, and European firms should be charmed by the expanding Korean market and its dynamic economic growth. Korea's geographical proximity to mainland China and Japan is another attraction for European investment in Korea, they added.

[Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0031 GMT 24 Mar 86] /9604

U.S. EMBASSY DENIES REPORT--The U.S. Embassy in Seoul yesterday denied previous news reports that Amb Richard Walker would soon be replaced by James Lilley, deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs. First Secretary David Fitzgerald, who also serves as the embassy's spokesman, said the news stories on Walker's replacement were "unfounded." Some daily newspapers in Seoul quoting Washington sources reported Sunday that the announcement of Lilley's appointment is only a "matter of time" and that Walker would retire and work as chief of the U.S. liaison office in Taipei. Amb Walker has been in Korea for about 5 years. [Text]

[Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Mar 86 p 1] /9604

KOREA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS MEETING--Seoul, 28 Mar (YONHAP)--About 400 people attended the fifth meeting of the Korea-Japan and Japan-Korea Friendship Associations here on Friday. The participants adopted a five-point resolution calling for active support for the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 summer Olympics, both scheduled for Seoul. Yi Chae-hyong, president of the Korea-Japan Friendship Association and speaker of the Korean National

Assembly, led the Korean delegation. The Japanese delegates were headed by Tatso Tanaka, a member of Japan's House of Representatives. The bilateral friendship associations were set up in 1978, 13 years after Seoul and Tokyo normalized relations. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 28 Mar 86] /9604

OFFICIAL VISIT OF PERUVIAN VICE PRESIDENT--Seoul, 20 Mar (YONHAP)--Luis Alberto Sanchez, the first vice president of Peru, is scheduled to arrive here Monday for a 5-day official visit that will include an audience with Korean President Chon Tu-hwan, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday. Sanchez, who concurrently serves as the president of Senate, is also scheduled to meet with senior government officials, including Prime Minister No Sin-yong and Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong, to discuss the promotion of further cooperation and friendship between Seoul and Lima. Sanchez, the highest Peruvian official ever to visit Korea, will be accompanied by a six-member entourage that will include Manuel Eduardo Romero Caro, minister of industry, commerce, tourism and integration. While here, the Peruvian vice president also is scheduled to receive an honorary doctorate in philosophy from Sungjon University on 27 March, the ministry reported. South Korea and Peru established diplomatic relations in 1963. In 1984, Korea exported about U.S.\$5.4 million worth of goods to Peru and imported \$64 million worth from the South American country. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 20 Mar 86] /9604

JAPAN LAUDS SUPPORT FOR ROYAL VISIT--Tokyo, 17 Mar (YONHAP)--The Japanese Government Monday expressed satisfaction with the Korean opposition party's decision to welcome Japanese Crown Prince Akihito to South Korea and with the affirmative position of the Korean media on the proposed visit. A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Monday that Japan will begin diplomatic negotiations on the matter because it would be meaningful for the crown prince to close an era of unhappy Korean-Japanese relations on behalf of his father, Emperor Hirohito. The official said that his government is drafting an apology, which Akihito will offer during his visit to Seoul in the context of a similar apology made by the emperor when he met with Korean President Chon Tu-hwan in September 1984 in Tokyo. In a meeting with Chon, Hirohito said it was "indeed regrettable that there had been an unhappy past" in the relations between the two neighboring countries. The "unhappy past" refers to imperial Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0111 GMT 17 Mar 86] /9604

CSO: 4100/104

S. KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

PAPER VIEWS IMPOSITION OF ANTIDUMPING TARIFFS

SK200145 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Antidumping Duties"]

[Text] With the remarkable growth in the nation's exports, an increasing number of Korean products have faced antidumping charges in overseas markets in recent years, occasionally arousing public furors over what was locally decried as the unfair and even retaliatory nature of the foreign actions.

In the meantime, there have been numerous accusations made by domestic producers of dumping practices by foreign exporters in Korea, along with complaints by consumers that some of the imported goods are of poor quality, compared with the exorbitant prices charged.

Under such circumstances, the government is set to take action, beginning late next week, imposing antidumping tariffs on foreign goods dumped on the local market--at prices lower than either those charged in the exporting country or their export prices with regard to a third country.

To effect the punitive measures vis-a-vis foreign products, for the first time in Korea, the government authorities have just finalized statutory preparations by amending enforcement decrees of the Customs Duties Law.

Previously, Korea had acceded to the "Antidumping Code" of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a step that will take effect next Wednesday to provide international legal grounds for taking action against dumping practices by foreign concerns.

According to the domestic decrees, the application of antidumping measures will be carried out largely in line with those enforced in other countries.

The introduction of antidumping tariffs is deemed inevitable to protect domestic industries from unfair practices by foreign exporters--and, for that matter, to counter increasing dumping charges made against Korean exports in foreign countries.

Nonetheless, it is suggested that the antidumping clauses be enforced in a discreet way, making the best use of consultation, mediation and other dispute-settlement procedures prescribed in the domestic statutes, as well as in the international code, instead of taking rash actions that may give the impression of being retaliatory.

Regrettable, indeed, is the fact that international trade today is marred by frequent charges of dumping and counteractions. This sorry state calls for prudent actions and well-rounded approaches by the parties concerned, both traders and government authorities of all countries engaged in trade.

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CSO: 4100/107

S. KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

PAPER WARNS OF RESURGENCE OF U.S. PROTECTIONISM

SK150052 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Barrier to Textile Exports"]

[Text] The wave of trade protectionism that went into a lull toward the end of last year appears to be resurging in the United States Congress. More than a dozen senators this week warned President Ronald Reagan that Washington must move to reduce textile imports and hinted at possibly overriding his veto of last year's bill for limiting textile imports.

The bipartisan group representing various parts of the United States sent a letter to the president to express their conviction that decisive action should be taken in 1986 to solve the "pressing domestic problem" confronting the U.S. textile, fiber and apparel industry. The lower house leadership has also brought up lately the issue of new protectionist legislation.

The upcoming off-year election is bound to feed fuel to the flame of protectionism to meet the demand of the American electorate and to combat the woes of the continuing high rate of unemployment, heavy federal deficits and weak performance on world markets.

These disadvantages are not likely to be overcome easily, despite the steady recovery of the U.S. economy as a consequence of the drop in oil prices, the depreciation of the dollar and the decline in interest rates. The drawbacks combine to generate strong pressure for erecting trade barriers.

Under the circumstances, the U.S. Government is likely to get tougher with import regulation measures. As one of the major exporting countries of such sensitive commodities as electronic products, garments, footwear and steel, Korea will have to bear the brunt of the pressure to sell less and buy more.

In the course of negotiating a new multifiber arrangement governing international textile trade later this year, we must secure the best possible footing to withstand the mounting pressure without antagonizing the advocates of protectionism.

Although many keep paying lip-service to the ideal of free trade, it no longer seems to be the wave of the future. Our economy must develop and learn the technique of survival in this arena of escalating trade competition and friction through strengthened diplomacy and competitive edge of our exports.

S. KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

DELEGATION TO ATTEND PACIFIC RIM TRADE CONFERENCE

SKI90122 Seoul YONHAP in English 0051 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, 19 Mar (YONHAP)--More than 50 delegates from 14 Pacific-rim countries will discuss trade issues affecting the Pacific region in the first Pacific trade policy forum, scheduled for Thursday through Saturday in San Francisco, the Korea Development Institute (KDI) reported Wednesday.

Nam Tok-u, chairman of the Korean Traders Association and former prime minister of Korea, will preside over the forum, which will be sponsored by the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC), the KDI said.

The KDI hosted the fifth PECC meeting here last May, when the Pacific trade policy forum was planned. The institute serves as the secretariat for the trade policy forum.

The participants will come from Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and South Korea.

The forum will focus on the global trade system and trade issues involving the promotion of free trade, KDI officials said.

Among the 50-odd participants will be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Michael Smith; Lawrence Krause, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute; Lloyd Axworthy, a member of the Canadian Parliament; E.A. Woodfield, deputy secretary of the New Zealand Department of Trade and Industry; and Philippine Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Jose P. Leviste Jr., according to the KDI.

Nam will head a six-member Korean delegation that will include Assistant Trade and Industry Minister Kim Chol-su and KDI President An Sung-chol.

The forum will promote the intensive discussion of regional trade problems and the new round of multilateral trade negotiations among Pacific-rim nations, the officials said.

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S. KOREA/INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL VIEWS 'REAGAN DOCTRINE' TOWARD THIRD WORLD

SK160412 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Reagan Doctrine"]

[Text] Since U.S. President Ronald Reagan first stepped into the White House 5 years ago, there have been several subtle, if not conspicuous, changes in his foreign policy or in his style of policy execution, especially when compared with his 1980 election pledges which were basically conservative and staunchly anti-Soviet or anti-Communist.

An instance that marked his first term in office was an alteration of his initially pro-Taiwan stand in favor of augmenting Washington-Beijing cooperative relations, though the shift was seen as part of meeting his ultimate goal to contain the threat of the Soviet Union.

Last week, Mr Reagan made what appeared to be yet another change in his policy approach--this time, by affirming U.S. opposition to all autocracies, be they leftist or rightist, in his reported efforts to step up pressure on authoritarian rules.

The affirmation was made in a statement titled "Freedom, Regional Security and Global Peace," which was sent to the U.S. Congress to sketch the outline of his policy toward the developing world.

The statement was essentially aimed at obtaining congressional approval for aid to "Contra" guerrillas fighting the Marxist regime in Nicaragua, an aid program at issue on the Capitol Hill. In fact, Mr Reagan elaborated in the message the growing resistance movements against Communist regimes installed or maintained by the Soviet military power and its proxies, in such countries as Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia and Nicaragua.

But then, noteworthy was his reference that the United States was opposed to rightist authoritarians as well as to those on the left, all the more so as it was made in the wake of the recent oustings of autocratic rulers in Haiti and the Philippines.

Such a statement may well be seen as reflecting the foreign policy approach of former President Jimmy Carter, which Mr Reagan initially disputed in favor of "quiet diplomacy."

As if to underscore the policy change, the United States joined other countries at the UN Human Rights Commission last week in condemning human rights violations in Chile, for the first time since the 1973 coup in the Latin American country.

These instances seem to bespeak of a flexible application of the "Reagan Doctrine" toward the Third World, which was framed in 1981 with a commitment to "contain Soviet expansionism," even while the basic theme remains intact.

If the shifts are addressed to meet the U.S. national interests in the changing world circumstances, they should be devoid of factors contravening the cardinal principle of national sovereignty and self-determination, let alone destabilizing areas in question.

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